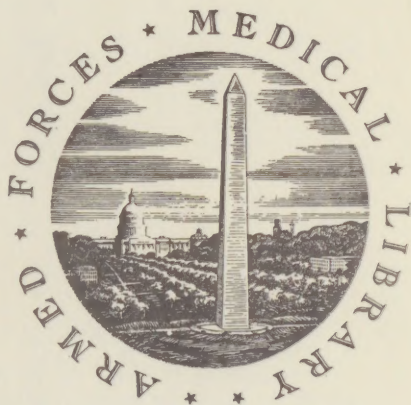


UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

WASHINGTON, D.C.

B19574



DOCUMENT

Red Cross, U. S. American National Red Cross

THE RED CROSS

OF THE

GENEVA CONVENTION

WHAT IT IS, ITS ORIGIN AND HISTORY

BY THE

American National Association of the Red Cross



DANSVILLE, N. Y.

A. O. BUNNELL, PRINTER, OFFICE OF THE DANSVILLE ADVERTISER

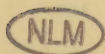
1881

Mon. Med.

HV

R318v

1881



PREFACE.

IN PLACING this pamphlet before the public it is the desire of the committee to make known, as far as possible, not only the nature and objects of the organization known as the Red Cross, as existing in other countries, but also the little which has thus far been attempted in our own. It has therefore been deemed advisable to embody in this a smaller pamphlet, issued by our president as early as the winter of 1878, entitled, 'What the Red Cross Is,' the design on her part being to introduce the work to the attention of the people, and their representatives in Congress.

Both publications, with a few exceptions, are drawn, as nearly as possible without being literal translations, from original works issued by the International Committee of Geneva, whose literature upon the subject of humanitarian work in war is already quite extensive, including the regular issue of a quarterly international Bulletin which details the work of the societies, and circulates in all countries embraced within the Treaty.

The position which the organization of the Red Cross occupies among the nations will be at once ap-

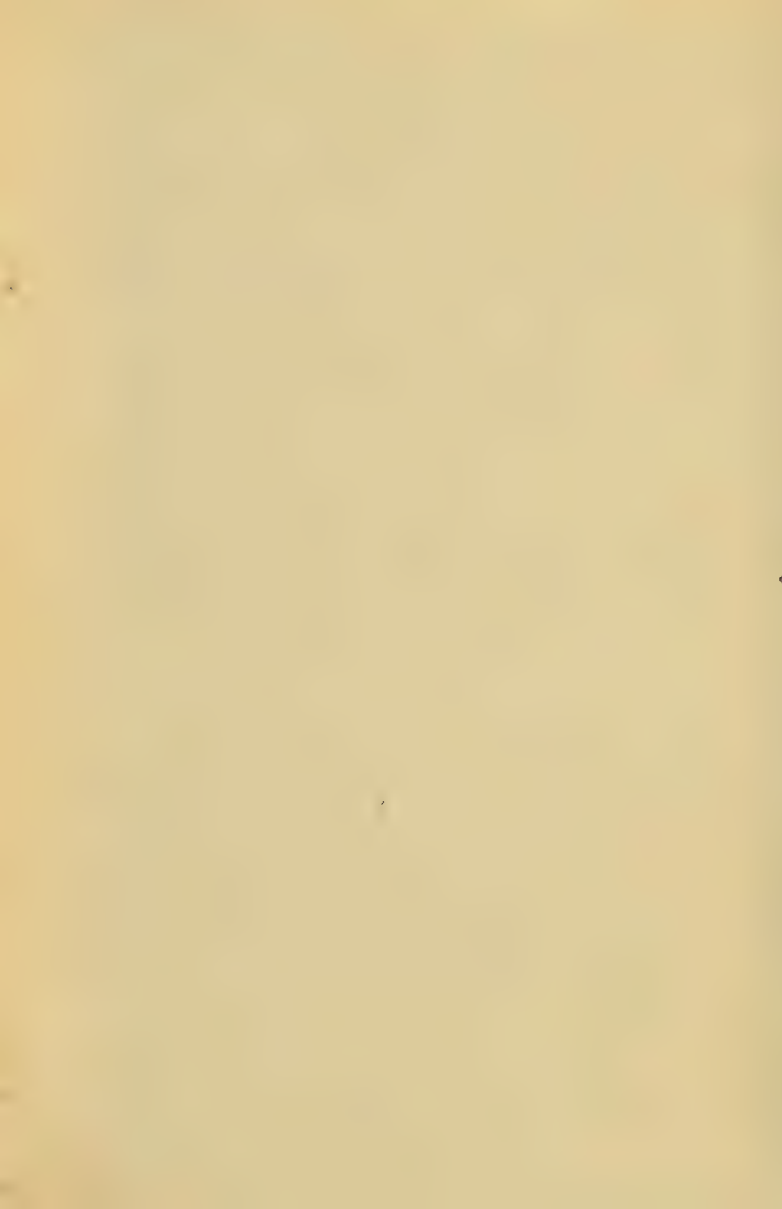
parent to all persons of observation. Entirely distinct in its origin, formation, objects and methods, from any system which has ever existed, standing so completely a work by itself, it is something not readily comprehended, as our own experience has too well shown. It is not appropriately classed with charities, but is rather to be regarded as a wise provision for the meeting of contingencies, certain sooner or later to confront us. The family which lays aside a portion of its passing income in health and prosperity, against the days when illness or misfortune shall overtake it, is held to be wise, economical, prudent, safe. Humanitarian in its principles and efforts, and realizing that nations are only the large families of the earth, the Red Cross seeks to introduce among nations and peoples, for their safety and welfare, the same wise course found so desirable and commendable in families and individuals.

Deploring war and its uncounted woes and evils, as they must, who unsolicited turn aside from the ordinary pursuits of life to seek out a system which shall lessen the horrors, and as its institutors have so beautifully expressed it, "enable war to make war upon itself," and "oppose the arms of humanity to the arms of violence," the Red Cross must by virtue of its very foundation

stand in the foremost ranks of the great civilizers, educators, and benefactors of mankind.

International and national only, it will naturally bear so small relation in its work to the customary beneficences of the community, as never to come into collision with them, but will seek to aid so far as lies in its power any good cause which may exist. Antagonistic to nothing, it can know neither jealousies nor rivalry; the course marked out for it by its regulations, and entered upon from the first, must be evenly pursued. Founding itself specifically with the laws which make the country, it can only end with the country, and having come to stay, will, in all its incipient arrangements, prefer reflection, wisdom, and mature judgment, to haste and uncertainty.

With these views, and in this spirit, we place our publication before the people, inviting their earnest attention to the subject explained by it, and feel assured that when once understood, the people of the United States of America will no longer be found behind all others in their active co-operation with the widest and most generally recognized humanitarian movement in the known world.



THE RED CROSS

OF THE

GENEVA CONVENTION.

WHAT IT IS.

BY CLARA BARTON.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Rufus H. Darby, Steam Power, Book and Job Printer, 432 Ninth St.

1878.

To the People of the United States, Senators and Representatives in Congress :

HAVING had the honor conferred upon me of appointment by the Central Commission holding the Geneva Convention to present that Treaty to this government, and to take in charge the formation of a national organization according to the plan pursued by the committees working under the Treaty, it seems to me but proper, that while I ask the government to sign it, the people and their representatives should be made acquainted with its origin, designs, methods of work, etc. To this end I have prepared the following statement, and present it to my countrymen and women, hoping they will be led to indorse and sustain a benevolence so grand in its character, and already almost universal in its recognition and adoption by the civilized world.

CLARA BARTON,

Washington, D. C.

WHAT THE RED CROSS IS.

.....

A CONFEDERATION of relief societies in different countries, acting under the Geneva Convention, carries on its work under the sign of the Red Cross. The aim of these societies is to ameliorate the condition of wounded soldiers in the armies in campaign on land or sea.

The societies had their rise in the conviction of certain philanthropic men, that the official sanitary service in wars is usually insufficient, and that the charity of the people, which at such times exhibits itself munificently, should be organized for the best possible utilization. An international public conference was called at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1863, which, though it had not an official character, brought together representatives from a number of governments. At this conference a treaty was drawn up, afterwards remodeled and improved, which twenty five governments have signed.

The Treaty provides for the neutrality of all sanitary supplies, ambulances, surgeons, nurses, attendants, and sick or wounded men, and their safe conduct, when

they bear the sign of the organization, viz: the Red Cross.

Although the convention which originated the organization was necessarily international, the relief societies themselves are entirely national and independent; each one governing itself and making its own laws, according to the genius of its nationality and needs.

It was necessary for recognizance and safety, and for carrying out the general provisions of the Treaty, that a uniform badge should be agreed upon. The Red Cross was chosen out of compliment to the Swiss republic, where the first convention was held, and in which the Central Commission has its headquarters. The Swiss colors being a white cross on a red ground, the badge chosen was these colors reversed.

There are no "members of the Red Cross," but only members of societies whose *sign* it is. There is no "*Order of the Red Cross*." The relief societies use, each according to its convenience, whatever methods seem best suited to prepare in times of peace for the necessities of sanitary service in times of war. They gather and store gifts of money and supplies; arrange hospitals, ambulances, methods of transportation of wounded men, bureaus of information, correspondence, etc. All that

the most ingenious philanthropy could devise and execute has been attempted in this direction.

In the Franco-Prussian war this was abundantly tested. That Prussia acknowledged its beneficence, is proven by the fact that the emperor affixed the Red Cross to the Iron Cross of Merit.

Although the societies are not international, there is a tacit compact between them, arising from their common origin, identity of aim, and mutual relation to the treaty. This compact embraces four principles, viz : centralization, preparation, impartiality, and solidarity.

1st—CENTRALIZATION. The efficiency of relief in time of war depends on unity of direction, therefore in every country the relief societies have a common central head to which they send their supplies, and which communicates for them with the seat of war or with the surgical military authorities, and it is through this central commission they have governmental recognition.

2d—PREPARATION. It is understood that societies working under the Red Cross shall occupy themselves with preparatory work in times of peace. This gives them a permanence they could not otherwise have.

3d—IMPARTIALITY. The societies of belligerent nations cannot always carry aid to their wounded countrymen who are captured by the enemy ; this is coun-

terbalanced by the regulation that the aid of the Red Cross societies shall be extended alike to friend and foe.

4th—SOLIDARITY. This provides that the societies of nations not engaged in war may afford aid to the sick and wounded of belligerent nations without affecting any principle of non-interference to which their governments may be pledged. This must be done through the Central Commission, and not through either of the belligerent parties; this insures impartiality of relief.

That these principles are practical, has been thoroughly tested during the fifteen years the Red Cross has existed. The Convention of Geneva does not exist as a society, but is simply a Treaty under which all the relief societies of the Red Cross are enabled to carry on their work effectually. In time of war, the members and agents of the societies who go to the seat of war are obliged to have their badges *revised* by the Central Commission, and by one of the belligerents—this is in order to prevent fraud. Thus the societies and the Treaty complement each other. The societies find and execute the relief, the Treaty affords them the immunities which *enable* them to execute.

And it may be further made a part of the *raison d'être* of these national relief societies to afford ready succor and assistance to sufferers in time of national or wide-

spread calamities, such as plagues, cholera, yellow fever and the like, devastating fires or floods, railway disasters, mining catastrophies, etc. The readiness of organizations like those of the Red Cross to extend help at the instant of need, renders the aid of quadruple value and efficiency compared with that gathered hastily and irresponsibly, in the bewilderment and shock which always accompanies such calamities. The trained nurses and attendants subject to the relief societies in such cases, would accompany the supplies sent and remain in action as long as needed. Organized in every state, the relief societies of the Red Cross would be ready with money, nurses and supplies, to go on call to the instant relief of all who were overwhelmed by any of those sudden calamities which occasionally visit us. In case of yellow fever, there being an organization in every state, the nurses and attendants would be first chosen from the nearest societies, and being acclimated would incur far less risk to life than if sent from distant localities. It is true that the government is always ready in these times of public need to furnish transportation, and often does much more. In the Mississippi flood, a few years ago, it ordered rations distributed under the direction of army officers; in the case of the explosion at the navy-yard, it voted a relief fund, and in our recent affliction at the

South, a like course was pursued. But in such cases one of the greatest difficulties is that there is no organized method of administering the relief which the government or liberal citizens are willing to bestow, nor trained and acclimated nurses ready to give intelligent care to the sick; or if there be organization, it is hastily formed in the time of need, and is therefore comparatively inefficient and wasteful. It would seem to be full time that, in consideration of the growth and rapidly accumulating necessities of our country, we should learn to economize our charities, and insure from them the greatest possible practical benevolence. Although we in the United States may fondly hope to be seldom visited by the calamities of war, yet the misfortunes of other nations with which we are on terms of amity appeal to our sympathies; our southern coasts are periodically visited by the scourge of yellow fever; the valleys of the Mississippi are subject to destructive inundations; the plains of the West are devastated by insects and drouth, and our cities and country are swept by consuming fires. In all such cases, to gather and dispense the profuse liberality of our people without waste of time or material, requires the wisdom that comes of experience and permanent organization. Still more does it concern, if not our safety, at least our honor, to signify our approval of those principles of humanity acknowledged by every other civilized nation.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS.

I.

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS.

THIS society had its inception in the minds of two noble men of Switzerland—M. Gustave Moynier and Dr. Louis Appia. The latter had served as an army surgeon at the battle of Solferino, and was deeply impressed with a conviction of the need of more extended and efficient means than any which yet existed for ameliorating conditions consequent on war. M. Moynier had entertained similar views and published a work entitled, “A Souvenir of Solferino,” in which he strongly advocated more humane and extensive appliances of aid to wounded soldiers. As a result of their thoughts and consultations, Mr. Moynier, who was at that time president of the Society of Public Utility of Switzerland, called a meeting of this society to consider “A proposi-

tion relative to the formation of permanent societies for the relief of wounded soldiers." This meeting took place on the 9th of February, 1863. The matter was laid fully before the society, was heartily received and acted upon, and a committee appointed, with Mr. Moynier at its head, to examine into methods by which the desired results might be obtained.

So fully did this committee realize its responsibility and the magnitude, grandeur, and labor of the undertaking that its first steps were made even with timidity. But, overcoming all obstacles, it decided upon a plan which seemed possible, and announced for the 26th of the following October a re-union, to which were invited, from all countries, men sympathizing with its views or able to assist in its discussions. This International Conference was held at the appointed time, continuing four days. The resolutions adopted contain the fundamental principles of the work since accomplished. Upon this basis was commenced and wrought out the Geneva Treaty, and the plan of all the National Permanent Relief Societies. Upon this the Red Cross was founded.

One of the first objects to be desired by the International Committee as necessary for the successful prosecution of its work was the endorsement, by the several states of Europe, of a Treaty which should recognize the

neutrality of the hospitals established, of the wounded, and of all persons and effects connected with the sanitary ; also the adoption of a uniform protective sign or badge. It inquired with care into the disposition of the several governments, and was met with active sympathy and moral support.

First assuring itself of the co operation of the Swiss federal council, and the Emperor of France, it shortly after procured the signatures of ten other governments, which were given at its rooms in the City Hall of Geneva, August 22, 1864, and called the Convention of Geneva.

Its sign or badge was also agreed upon, viz: a red cross on a white ground, which was to be worn on the arm by all persons acting with or in the service of the committees enrolled under the Convention. The number of governments adhering to the Treaty was shortly after increased to twenty two, and at the present date numbers twenty-seven.

The war of 1866, though not fully developing the advantages of this international law, was yet the means of discovering its imperfections. Consequently, in 1867, the relief societies of Paris considered it necessary that the Treaty should be revised, modified and completed. Requests were issued, the International Committee

transmitted them to the various governments, and in 1868 a second diplomatic conference was convened at Geneva, at which were voted additional articles, improving the Treaty by completing its design, and extending its beneficent action to maritime wars.

During the war of 1866 no decisive trial of the new principles involved in the Treaty could be made, Austria not having at that time signed it. But in 1870-71 it was otherwise. The belligerents had accepted not only the first Treaty but likewise the additional articles. Thus it became possible to show to the world the immense service and beneficent results which the Treaty through the relief societies might accomplish.

The dullest apprehension can partially appreciate the responsibilities incurred by relief societies in time of war; and the thoughtful mind will readily perceive that these responsibilities involve constant vigilance and effort during periods of peace. It is wise statesmanship which directs that "in time of peace we must prepare for war," and it is as wise benevolence that makes preparation in the hour of peace for assuaging the ills that are sure to accompany war. We do not wait till battles are upon us to provide munitions of war nor efficient soldiery. Everything that foresight and caution can devise to ensure success is made ready and kept ready

against the time of need. It is equally necessary to hold ourselves in readiness for effectual service in the mitigation of evils consequent upon war, if humane work is to be undertaken in that direction.

Permanent armies are organized, drilled and supported for the actual service of contest; it is no less incumbent, if we would do efficient work in alleviating the sufferings caused by the barbarisms of war, that we should organize philanthropic effort, and be ready, with whatever is necessary, to be on the field at the sound of the first gun. An understanding of this truth led the Conference of 1863 to embody in its articles, as one of its first cardinal characteristics, the following: "In time of peace the committee will occupy itself with means to render genuine assistance in time of war."

The committee assumed that there should be a relief association in every country which endorsed the Treaty, and so generally was the idea accepted that at the end of the year 1864, when only ten governments had been added to the Convention, twenty-five central committees had been formed, under each of which relief societies were organized.

It was, however, after the wars of 1864, 1866, and 1870 that the movement began really to be popular. These conflicts brought not only contestants, but neutral

powers, so to appreciate the horrors of war that they were quite ready to acknowledge the beneficence and wisdom of the Geneva Treaty. Many who approved the humane idea and expressed a hearty sympathy for the object to be attained had heretofore regarded it as Utopian, a thing desirable but not attainable, an amiable and fanatical illusion, which would ever elude the practical grasp. Nevertheless, the work accomplished from time to time during the wars referred to won not only such, but those actually hostile, to regard it as a practical and most beneficent undertaking. The crowned heads of Europe were quick to perceive the benign uses of the associations, and bestowed upon the central committees of their countries money, credit and personal approbation. The families of sovereigns contributed their sympathy and material support. The list of princes and princesses who came forward with personal aid and assumed direction of the work was by no means small, thus proving correct the augury of the convention of 1863, viz: that, "The governments would accord their high protection to the committees in their organization."

The whole of Europe is marshalled under the banner of the Red Cross. To its powerful and peaceful sign the committee hopes to bring all civilized nations of the earth. Wherever men fight and tear each other in

pieces, wherever the glare and roar of war are heard, they aim to plant the white banner that bears the blessed sign of relief. Already they have carried it into Asia. Their ensign waves in Siberia, on the Chinese frontier, and in Turkistan; through the African committee in Algeria and Egypt; and Oceanica has a committee at Batavia. Even the islands of the sea are learning the blessings of more humane customs in war.

II.

ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WORK.

ONE OF the things considered indispensable, and therefore adopted as a resolution by the conference of 1863, was the centralization of the work in each country separately, by itself. While the Treaty must be universally acknowledged, and its badge accepted as a universal sign, it was equally essential that the societies of the different countries should be simply national and in no respect international. It was therefore ordained by the conference, that all local committees or organizations, desirous of working with the Red Cross, should do so under the auspices of a central committee of their own

nation, recognized by its government, and also recognized by the International Committee from which the sign of the Red Cross emanates. Singularly enough, the International Committee has had considerable difficulty in making this fully understood, and frequently has been obliged to call local committees to order, for assuming centralization or nationality. Once in three months the International Committee publishes an official list of all committees recognized by it as central or national. In this way it is able to exercise a certain control and repress entanglements and abuses which would be consequent on irresponsible or counterfeit organizations. To recapitulate: The commission of Geneva, of which Monsieur Moynier is president, is the *only International Committee*. All other committees are simply national or local. The conference of 1863 foresaw that national differences would prevent a universal code of management, and that to make the societies international would destroy them so far as efficiency was concerned; they therefore adopted a resolution that "central committees should organize in such a manner as seemed the most useful and convenient to themselves." Every committee being its own judge has its own constitution and laws. To be efficient it must have government recognition, must bear the stamp of national individuality, and be

constructed according to the spirit, habits, and needs of the country it represents. No hierarchy unites the societies; they are independent of each other; but have each an individual responsibility to the Treaty, under the ensign of which they work, and they labor in a common cause. It is desirable that they should all be known by one name—viz: The Society of the Red Cross.

The functions of the INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE whose headquarters are at Geneva were also determined by the conference of 1863. It is to serve provisionally as an intermediate agent between national committees and facilitate their communications with each other. It occupies itself with the general interests of the Red Cross, in correspondence, and the study of theoretical and practical methods of amelioration.

The NATIONAL COMMITTEES are charged with the direction and responsibility of the work in their own countries; they must provide resources to be utilized in time of need; take active measures to secure adherents, establish local societies, and have efficient working force always in readiness for action; and in time of war dispatch and distribute safely and wisely all accumulations of material and supplies, nurses and assistants, to their proper destinations; and, in short, whatever may be gathered from the patriotism and philanthropy of

the country, always remembering that central committees without abundance of sectional branches would be of little use.

In most countries the co-operation of women has been eagerly sought. It is needless to say it has been as eagerly given. In some countries the central committees are mixed, both sexes working together ; in others, sub-committees are formed by women ; and in others, as in the Grand Duchy of Baden, woman leads.

As a last detail of organization the conference of 1863 recommended to the central committees to put themselves *en rapport* with their respective governments in order that their offers of service should be accepted when required. This makes it incumbent upon societies to obtain and hold government recognition, by which they are endowed with the immunities and privileges of legally instituted bodies, and with recognition from other nations in time of war not otherwise possible to them. Finally the committees are advised to put themselves, through the medium of the central committee recognized by the government, into relations with the war departments of their respective countries in order to have their services most perfectly utilized in time of war.

III.

*OCCUPATION OF RELIEF SOCIETIES
IN TIMES OF PEACE.*

RECOGNITION, organization, and communication are by no means all that is necessary to insure the fulfillment of the objects of these associations. A thing most important to be borne in mind is, that if money be necessary for war it is also an indispensable agent in relief of the miseries occasioned by war. Self-devotion alone will not answer. The relief societies need funds and other resources to carry on their work. They not only require means for current expenses but, most of all, for possible emergencies. To obtain and prudently conserve these resources is an important work. The Russian society set a good example of activity in this direction. From the beginning of its organization in 1867 it systematically collected money over the whole empire, and neglected nothing that tended to success. It put boxes in churches, convents, armories, railroad depots, steamboats—in every place frequented by the public.

Besides the collection of funds, the conference of 1863 recommended that peace periods should be occupied in gathering necessary material for sanitary service. In 1868 there were in Geneva alone five depots where

were accumulated one thousand two hundred and twenty-eight dozen shirts, besides hosiery, bandages, lint, etc., for over six thousand wounded. There were also large collections in the provinces.

In other countries, the supplies remaining after wars were gathered into depots and added to abundantly. Thus in 1868 the Berlin committee was in possession of supplies worth over \$25,000. Especial care is taken to acquire familiarity with all sanitary material used : to eliminate as far as possible whatever may be prejudicial to sick or wounded men, to improve both the sanitary system and all supplies used under it ; to have everything of the very best, as surgical instruments, medicine chests, bandages, stretchers, wagons, and tents.

We would refer to the efforts made in the national exhibitions of various countries, where the societies of the Red Cross have displayed their practical improvements and inventions, in competitive zeal, taxing to their utmost human ingenuity and skill. Some countries have taken grand prizes. Hague held an exposition in 1867, exclusively for the works of the Red Cross. Permanent museums have been established where all sorts of sanitary material for relief are exhibited, as in Stockholm, Carlsruhe, St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Paris ; this last is the most important, and is international,

other countries having participated in its foundation.

Another method is the publication of works bearing upon this subject, some of which are very valuable and scientific.

Not less important is attention to the sanitary *personnel*. Of all aid, efficient nurses are the most difficult to obtain. There are numbers of men and women who have the will and devotion necessary to lead them into hospitals, or to the battle-field, but very few of them are capable of performing well the duties of nurses. Therefore but a small portion of the volunteers are available. The relief societies soon found that women were, by nature, much better fitted for this duty than men can be; and to enable them to fulfil to the best advantage the mission for which they are so well adapted it was decided to afford them the best possible professional instruction. For this purpose, during peace, training-schools were established, from which were graduated great numbers of women who are ready, at a moment's notice, to go upon the battle-field or into hospitals. These professional nurses find no difficulty during times of peace in securing remunerative employment; indeed, they are eagerly sought for by the community, and easily arrange to take positions at the bedside of the sick, with the proviso that they are to be allowed to obey the pledge to

their society at the first tocsin of war. There are schools for this purpose in Germany, England, Sweden, Holland, Russia, and other European countries, and nothing has been neglected toward making them thorough, and placing them on a strong and solid basis.

IV.

SERVICES IN TIME OF WAR.

NOTWITHSTANDING the readiness with which most persons will perceive the beneficent uses of relief societies in war, it may not be amiss to particularize some of the work accomplished by the societies of the Red Cross. Not to mention civil disturbances and lesser conflicts, they participated in not less than five great wars in the first ten years, commencing with Schleswig-Holstein, and ending with the Franco-German. Russia and Turkey have followed, with many others since that time, in all of which these societies have signally proved their power to ameliorate the horrors of war. The earlier of these, while affording great opportunity for the beneficent work of the societies, were also grand fields of instruction and discipline to the committee, enabling

them to store up vast funds of practical knowledge which were to be of great service.

The Sanitary Commission of the United States also served as an excellent example in many respects to the relief societies of Europe, and from it they took many valuable lessons. Thus in 1866 Europe was much better prepared than ever before for the care of those who suffered from the barbarisms of war. She was now ready with some degree of ability to oppose the arms of charity to the arms of violence, and make a kind of war on war itself. Still however there was a lack of centralization. The provincial committees worked separately, and consequently lost force. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, large amounts of money were gathered, and munificent supplies of material brought into store. The Austrian committee alone collected 2,170,000 francs, and a great supply of all things needed in hospital service. The central committee was of great use in facilitating correspondence between the different peoples comprising the Austrian Empire, the bureau maintaining correspondence in eleven different languages.

Italy was not backward in the performance of her duty. She used her abundant resources in the most effectual way. Not only were her provincial societies of relief united for common action, but they received

external aid from France and Switzerland. Here was exhibited the first beautiful example of neutral powers interfering in the cause of charity in time of war—instead of joining in the work of destruction, lending their aid to repair its damages. The provincial committees banded together under the central committee of Milan. Four squads, comprising well-trained nurses and assistants, were organized and furnished with all necessary material to follow the military ambulances or field hospitals, whose wagons were placed at their disposal. Thus the committee not only reinforced the sanitary *personnel* of the army, but greatly increased its supplies. It provided entirely the sanitary material for the Tyrolese volunteers, and afforded relief to the navy, and when the war was over it remained among the wounded. In addition to the supplies this committee afforded, it expended in money not less than 199,064 francs.

But after all it was Germany standing between the two armies which distinguished herself. Since the conference of 1863 she had been acting on the rule of preparation, and now found herself in readiness for all emergencies. The central committee of Berlin was flooded with contributions from the provincial committees. In the eight provinces of Prussia 4,000,000 of thalers were collected, and the other states of Germany

were not behind. So munificently did the people bestow their aid, that large store-houses were provided in Berlin and in the provinces for its reception, and at the central depot in Berlin two hundred paid persons, besides a large number of volunteers, and nearly three hundred ladies and misses were employed in classifying, parceling, packing up, and dispatching the goods. Special railroad trains carried material to the points of need. In one train were twenty-six cars laden with 1,800 to 2,000 cwt. of supplies. Never had private charity, however carefully directed, been able to accomplish such prodigies of benevolence. It was now that the beneficence of the Treaty and the excellence of the organization were manifested. But the committee did not confine itself to sending supplies for the wounded to the seat of war. It established and provisioned refreshment stations for the trains, to which those unable to proceed on the trains to the great hospitals without danger to life, were admitted, nursed and cared for with the tenderest solicitude until they were sufficiently recovered to be removed, or death took them. At the station of Pardubitz from six hundred to eight hundred were cared for daily for two months, and lodging provided for three hundred at night. This example suffices to show the extraordinary results of well-organized plans and concerted

action. During the war, the relief societies had also to contend with the terrible scourge of cholera. There can be no estimate of the misery assuaged and deaths prevented by the unselfish zeal and devotion of the wearers of the Red Cross.

In the interval between the wars of 1866 and 1867, and that of 1870-71 the time had been improved by the societies existing under the Geneva treaty, in adding to their resources in every possible manner. Improvements were made in all articles of sanitary service; excellent treatises regarding the hygiene of the camp and hospital were widely circulated; the press had greatly interested itself in the promulgation of information regarding all matters of interest or instruction pertaining to sanitary effort, and almost universally lent its powerful influence to build up the societies. Ten new societies were formed during this time. In Germany the work of the Red Cross was so thoroughly organized, that at the first signal from Berlin, committees arrived as if by magic at all required points, forming a chain which extended over the whole country, and numbered over two thousand persons. This is more remarkable since Germany was a neutral power. Constant communication was kept up between these committees and the central bureau, and the most perfect order and discipline

were maintained. Relief was sent from one or another of these stations as was needed. The state afforded free transport, and the voluntary contributions of the people kept up the supplies of sanitary material, so that there was never any lack or danger of failure. With the government transports, whether by land or water, there went always the agents of the Red Cross, protected by their badges and flag, to wait on the invoices, hasten their progress, see to their being kept in good order, and properly delivered at their destination. Depots of supplies were moved from place to place as exigencies demanded. The greatest care was taken to prevent disorder or confusion, and the best military circumspection and regularity prevailed. The great central depot at Berlin comprised seven sections, viz: camp material; clothing; dressing, for wounds; surgical apparatus; medicines and disinfectants; food and tobacco; and hospital furnishings. Did space allow, it would be desirable to give statistics of the contributions in money and supplies to this service. Suffice it to say, the humanity of peoples is far beyond that of governments. Governments appropriate immense sums to carry on destructive conflicts, but the work of relief societies the world over, and especially during the war of 1870-71, has shown that the philanthropy of the people equals their patri-

otism. The sums given to assuage the miseries of the Franco-Prussian war were simply fabulous. In 1863, fears were expressed that there would be difficulty in collecting needful funds and supplies to carry out the designs of the Treaty. These misgivings proved groundless. After the war of 1870-71, notwithstanding nothing had been withheld in the way of relief, the societies settled their accounts with large balances in their treasuries.

In France not nearly so much had been previously done to provide for the exigencies which fell upon them, but the committee worked with such vigor and so wrought upon the philanthropy of individuals, that active measures of relief were instantly taken. Gold and supplies poured into the hands of the committee at Paris. One month sufficed to organize and provide seventeen campaign ambulances or field hospitals which immediately joined the army and accompanied it through the first period of the war, or until the battle of Sedan. In Paris ambulances were stationed at the railroad depots to pick up the wounded, and a bureau of information was created for soldiers' families. When the siege of Paris was about to take place the committee threw, without delay, a commission into Brussels charged with the direction and help of flying hospitals. Nine com-

mittees were established in the provinces, with power to act for the central committee and to invite the people to help. Meanwhile the committee in Paris did its utmost to mitigate the distress that reigned there, and to prepare for the result of the siege. History has recorded the sufferings, the horrors of misery that accompanied and followed that siege; but history can never relate what wretchedness was averted, what agonies were alleviated, what multitudes of lives were saved, by the presence and effort of the relief societies! What the state of France must have been without the merciful help of the Red Cross societies the imagination dare not picture. After the armistice was signed there were removed from Paris, under the auspices of the relief societies, ten thousand wounded men, who otherwise must have lingered in agony, or died from want of care; and there were brought back by them to French soil nine thousand men who had been cared for in German hospitals.

V.

*ACTION OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES IN
TIME OF WAR.*

NEUTRAL countries also during this war were ready and bountiful with help; and those working under the Treaty did most effectual service. England contributed 7,500,000 francs, beside large gifts of sanitary supplies; in one hundred and eighty-eight days' time, she sent to the seat of war twelve thousand boxes of supplies through the agents of the Red Cross.

To give an idea of the readiness and efficacy with which the committees worked even in neutral countries, one instance will suffice. From Pont-a Mousson a telegram was sent to London for two hundred and fifty iron beds for the wounded, and in forty-eight hours they arrived in answer to the request. England kept also at the seat of war, agents to inform the committee at home of whatever was most needed in supplies. The neutral countries sent also surgeons, physicians and nurses, and in many other ways gave practical testimony to the benign efficacy of the Geneva Treaty.

As will be seen by the foregoing pages, the objects and provisions of the Geneva Convention and the Societies acting under it, are designed for, and applicable to,

the exigences of war only. The close contact of the nations hitherto signing this treaty, renders them far more liable to the recurrence of war in their midst than our own, which by its geographical position, and distance from neighboring nations, entertains a feeling of security which justifies the hope that we may seldom if ever again have occasion to provide for the exigencies of war in our land.

This leads the American Association to perceive the great wisdom, foresight and breadth of the resolution adopted by the convention of 1863, which provides that "Committees shall organize in the manner which shall seem most useful and convenient to themselves;" also in their article on the organization of societies in these pages occurs the following: "To be efficient, societies must have government recognition, must bear the stamp of their national individuality, and be constructed according to the spirit, habits, and needs of the country they represent. This is essential to success."

As no work can retain its vitality without constant action, so in a country like ours, with a people of so active a temperament, an essential element in endearing to them a work, is to keep constantly before them its usefulness. With this view the question of meeting the want heretofore felt on all occasions of public calamity,

of sufficient extent to be deemed of national importance, has received attention at the hands of this association. For this purpose the necessary steps have been inaugurated to organize auxiliary societies, prepared to co-operate with the central Association in all plans for prompt relief; whilst the volunteers who shall render personal aid will be expected to hold themselves in the same readiness as in the case of an international call.

It must, however, be distinctly understood that these additional functions for local purposes shall in no manner impair the international obligation of the association; but on the contrary it is believed will render them more effective in time of need.

It may appear singular that a movement so humane in its purposes, so wise and well considered in its regulations, so universal in its application, and every way so unexceptional, should have been so long in finding its way to the knowledge and consideration of the people of the United States. This fact appears to have been the result of circumstances rather than intention. While eminently a reading people, we are almost exclusively confined to the English language. The literature of the Red Cross is entirely in other languages, largely French, and thus has failed to meet the eye of the reading public.

It will be observed that the first convention was called during our war; no delegates were especially sent by the United States, but our Minister Plenipotentiary to Switzerland, acting as delegate, sent a copy of the doings of the Convention to our government for recognition. In the midst of civil war as we were at the time the subject was very naturally and properly declined.

It was again most fittingly presented in 1866 through Rev. Dr. Henry Bellows, and by this eminent gentleman and philanthropist a society of the Red Cross was actually formed; but for some cause it failed, and the Convention was not recognized. The International Committee became in a manner discouraged in its efforts with the United States, but finally it was decided to present it again through Miss Clara Barton, and accordingly the following letter was addressed to President Hayes during the first year of his administration:

GENEVA, 19th. August, 1877.

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Soldiers.
To the President of the United States at Washington:

MR. PRESIDENT:—The International Committee of the Red Cross desires most earnestly that the United States should be associated with them in their work, and they take the liberty of addressing themselves to you, with the hope that you will second their efforts. In order that the functions of the National Society of the Red Cross be faithfully performed, it is indispensable that it should have the sympathy and protection of the government.

It would be irrational to establish an association upon the principles of the Convention of Geneva, without the association having the assurance

that the army of its own country, of which it should be an auxiliary, would be guided, should the case occur, by the same principles. It would consequently be useless for us to appeal to the people of the country, inasmuch as the United States, as a government, has made no declaration of adhering officially to the principles laid down by the Convention of the 22d August, 1864.

Such is, then, Mr. President, the principal object of the present request. We do not doubt but this will meet with a favorable reception from you, for the United States is in advance of Europe upon the subject of war, and the celebrated "Instructions of the American army," are a monument which does honor to the United States.

You are aware, Mr. President, that the government of the United States was officially represented at the Conference of Geneva, in 1864, by two delegates; and this mark of approbation given to the work which was being accomplished was then considered by every one as a precursor of a legal ratification. Until the present time, however, this confirmation has not taken place, and we think that this formality which would have no other bearing than to express publicly the acquiescence of the United States in those humanitarian principles now admitted by all civilized people, has only been retarded because the occasion has not offered itself. We flatter ourselves with the hope that appealing directly to your generous sentiments will determine you to take the necessary measures to put an end to a situation so much to be regretted. We only wait such good news, Mr. President, in order to urge the founding of an American society of the Red Cross.

We have already an able and devoted assistant in Miss Clara Barton to whom we confide the care of handing to you this present request.

It would be very desirable that the projected asseveration should be under your distinguished patronage and we hope that you will not refuse us this favor.

Receive, Mr. President, the assurance of our highest consideration.

For the International Committee,

G. MOYNIER, President.

This letter was sent to Miss Barton, who, having labored with committees of the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian war, thus becoming familiar with its

methods, was very naturally selected as the bearer of the letter, and the exponent of the cause. Moreover, foreign nations had secured her promise to present it to the government on her return to her country and endeavor to make its principles understood among the people.

Accordingly the letter was presented by Miss Barton to President Hayes and by him referred to his secretary of state, but as no action was taken, and no promise of any action given, it was not deemed advisable to proceed to the organization of societies formed with special reference to acting under the regulations of a governmental treaty having no present existence, and no guaranty of any in the future.

Thus it remained until the incoming of the present Administration, when a copy of the letter of Mr. Moynier was presented by Miss Barton to President Garfield, very cordially received by him, and endorsed to Secretary Blaine ; from whom after full consideration of the subject the following letter was received :

Department of State,
WASHINGTON, May 20, 1881. }

MISS CLARA BARTON,

American Representative of the Red Cross, etc., Washington.

DEAR MADAM:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter addressed by Mr. Moynier, President of the Red Cross International Convention, to the President of the United States, bearing the date of

the 19th August, 1877, and referred by President Garfield on the 30th March, 1881, to this Department.

It appears from a careful perusal of the letter that Mr. Moynier is anxious that the government of the United States should join with other governments of the world in this International Convention.

Will you be pleased to say to Mr. Moynier, in reply to his letter, that the President of the United States, and the officers of this government are in full sympathy with any wise measures tending toward the amelioration of the suffering incident to warfare. The constitution of the United States has, however, lodged the entire war making power in the congress of the United States; and as the participation of the United States in an international convention of this character is consequent upon and auxiliary to the war making power of the nation, legislation by congress is needful to accomplish the humane end that your society has in view. It gives me, however, great pleasure to state that I shall be happy to give any measures which you may propose careful attention and consideration, and should the President, as I doubt not he will, approve of the matter, the administration will recommend to congress the adoption of the international treaty which you desire.

I am, Madam, with very great respect,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

On the 25th of June the following letter from Mr. Moynier, President of the International Committee of Geneva, in reply to the preceding letter of Secretary Blaine, was received by Miss Barton, and duly presented at the State Department :

GENEVA, June 13, 1881.

To the Hon. the Secretary of State,

JAMES G. BLAINE, Washington :

SIR:—Miss Clara Barton has just communicated to me the letter which she has had the honor to receive from you, bearing date of May 23, 1881, and I hasten to express to you how much satisfaction I have experienced from it. I do not doubt now, thanks to your favorable consideration and that of President Garfield, that the United States may soon be counted

among the number of signers of the Geneva Convention, since you have been kind enough to allow me to hope that the proposition for it will be made to congress by the administration.

I thank you as well as President Garfield, for having been willing to take into serious consideration the wish contained in my letter of August 19, 1877, assuredly a very natural wish, since it tended to unite your country with a work of charity and civilization for which it is one of the best qualified.

Since my letter of 1877 was written, several new governmental adhesions have been given to the Geneva Convention, and I think that these precedents will be much more encouraging to the United States from the fact that they have been given by America. It was under the influence of events of the recent war of the Pacific that Bolivia signed the treaty the 16th of Oct., 1879, Chili on the 15th Nov., 1879, Argentine Republic on the 25th of Nov., 1879, and Peru on the 22d of April, 1881. This argument in favor of the adhesion of your country is the only one I can add to my request, and to the printed documents that Miss Barton has placed in your hands, to aid your judgment and that of congress.

I now await with full confidence the final result of your sympathetic efforts, and I beg you to accept, Sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

Signed, G. MOYNIER, President.

The very cordial and frank expressions of sympathy contained in Secretary Blaine's letter gave assurance of the acceptance of the terms of the treaty by the government at no distant day, and warranted the formation of societies. Accordingly a meeting was held in Washington, D. C., May 21, 1881, which resulted in the formation of an association to be known as the American [National] Association of the Red Cross. A constitution was adopted, a copy of which follows :

*Constitution of the American Association
of the Red Cross.*

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, On the 22d day of August, 1864, at Geneva, Switzerland, plenipotentiaries, respectively representing Italy, Baden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Portugal, France, Prussia, Saxony, Wunemberg, and the Federal Council of Switzerland, agreed upon ten articles of a Treaty or Convention for the purpose of mitigating the evils inseparable from war; of suppressing needless severities, and ameliorating the condition of soldiers wounded on the field of battle; and particularly providing, among other things, in effect that persons employed in hospitals and in affording relief to the sick and wounded, and supplies for this purpose shall be deemed neutral and entitled to protection; and that a distinctive and uniform flag shall be adopted for hospitals, ambulances and convoys of sick and wounded, and an arm badge for individuals neutralized, and,

Whereas, Said Treaty has been ratified by all said nations above named, and others, but not by the United States of America, and,

Whereas, A permanent society is an agency needed in every nation, to carry out the purposes of said Treaty, and especially to secure supplies for relief, and persons to execute the humane objects contemplated by said Treaty in a form somewhat similar to that adopted by the Sanitary Commission and the Christian Commission during the war of the Rebellion in the United States; and while sincerely hoping for the dawn of perpetual and universal peace among the nations of the earth, and earnestly deprecating war, we cannot shut our eyes to its existence, nor to the liability of its recurrence, nor to the fact that it is the part of true wisdom to prepare to assuage the sufferings caused by an evil which we cannot avert;

Now, therefore, for the purpose of securing the assent of the United States to said Treaty, of securing a perpetual act of incorporation from congress for a national society, with power to organize auxiliary societies to carry out the humane objects of said Treaty, and with authority to adopt a distinctive flag and arm badge, as contemplated by said Treaty, on which shall be the sign of the Red Cross, and for the purpose of co-

operating with the "*Comite International de Secours aux Militaires Blessis*," [International Committee of Relief for the Wounded in War] of Geneva, an organization in aid of the purposes of said treaty and with similar associations in other nations, an association is hereby organized with a constitution as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

NAME, LOCATION, COMPOSED OF.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the American Association of the Red Cross, with its office located at Washington, D. C., and shall consist of the subscribers hereunto, and such other persons as shall hereafter be elected to membership; and it shall constitute a Central National Association with power to organize state and territorial associations auxiliary to itself.

OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 2. The objects of the National Association are,

First, To secure the adoption by the government of the United States of the Treaty of August 22, 1864.

Second, To obtain recognition by the government of the United States, and to hold itself in readiness for communicating therewith at all times, to the end that its purposes may be more widely and effectually carried out.

Third, To organize a system of national relief and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by war, pestilence, famine and other calamities.

Fourth, To collect and diffuse information touching the progress of mercy, the organization of national relief, the advancement of sanitary science and hospital service, and their application.

Fifth, To co-operate with all other national societies, for the furtherance of the articles herein set forth, in such ways as are provided by the regulations governing such co-operation.

DUTIES.

ARTICLE 3. This association shall hold itself in readiness in the event of war or any calamity great enough to be considered national, to inaugurate such practical measures, in mitigation of the suffering and for the protection and relief of sick and wounded, as may be consistent with the objects of the association as indicated in Article 2.

OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 4. The officers of this association shall consist of a president; first vice president; other vice presidents, not to exceed one from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia; a secretary; treasurer; an executive board; a board for consultation, which shall consist of the following officers of the United States government, viz: the President and his cabinet; General of the Army; Surgeon General; Adjutant General; and Judge Advocate General; and such other officers as may hereafter be deemed necessary.

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

ARTICLE 5. The annual meeting of the association, to hear the reports of the various officers and act thereon, to act upon any changes in the constitution and by-laws and to transact such other business as may legally come before it, shall meet on the third Monday of January.

At the first general meeting after the formation of the society, the following officers shall be elected by ballot, viz: president; first vice presidents; members of the executive board and board for consultation; secretary, and treasurer; and thereafter these officers shall be elected for one year beginning on the third Monday in January, 1882.

Elections to fill vacancies may be had at any regular meeting or at any meeting duly called for that purpose.

Each member shall be entitled to one vote, in person or by proxy.

The candidate for any office receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected, although the same may not be a majority of all the votes cast.

The president with the concurrence of the executive board, may at any time convene a meeting of the association and shall do so upon request of the executive board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

ARTICLE 6. The executive board shall consist of eleven members nine of whom shall be chosen by ballot. This board shall organize and proceed to appoint a secretary, who may also act as corresponding secretary of the national association. The president and first vice president shall be members *ex officio* of the executive board; the first vice president to be chairman of the executive board.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 7. The president shall preside at all meetings of the association, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

The executive board shall arrange the time for holding its meetings, and shall convene at the call of its chairman.

Five members thereof shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

It shall take into consideration and act upon all questions concerning the objects sought by the association, and shall devise and adopt such ways and means as may be deemed necessary for the fullest possible attainment of said objects. It shall confer with the board of consultation whenever its counsel and advice may seem desirable. It shall prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the association a report of its transactions during the year.

The treasurer shall receive, invest and disburse the funds of the association under direction of the executive board; and shall provide and furnish such bonds for the faithful performance of the duties as may be prescribed by the executive board.

The secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of the transaction of business at all meetings of the association, and shall attend to such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the president.

At a subsequent meeting, held on the 9th of June, 1881, the following officers were elected:

MISS CLARA BARTON, President;

JUDGE WM. LAWRENCE, First Vice President;

DR. ALEX. Y. P. GARNETTE, Vice President of the District of Columbia;

A. S. SOLOMONS, Treasurer;

GEORGE KENNAN, Secretary.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

JUDGE WM. LAWRENCE, Chairman,

DR. GEORGE B. LORING,

GEN. S. D. STURGIS,

MRS. S. A. MARTHA CANFIELD,

MR. WALTER P. PHILLIPS,

MISS CLARA BARTON,

MR. WALKER BLAINE,

COL. RICHARD J. HINTON,

MRS. F. B. TAYLOR,

MR. JOHN R. VANWORMER,

MR. WM. F. SLINEY.

GEN. R. D. MUSSEY, Consulting Council of the association.

MISS CLARA BARTON, Corresponding Secretary.

This society has been duly incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

RESOLUTIONS of the International Conference of Geneva. Assembled at Geneva on the 26th–29th of Oct. 1863.

The International Conference, desirous of aiding the wounded, in cases where the military hospital service is insufficient, adopts the following resolutions :

ART. 1. That there exist in each country a committee whose mission consists in co-operating in times of war with the hospital service of the armies, by all means in its power ;

That this committee be organized in the manner which seems the most useful and convenient.

ART. 2. Sections, to an unlimited number, can be formed to aid this committee, to which belongs the general direction.

ART. 3. Each committee should put itself in relation with the government of its country in order that its services shall be accepted.

ART. 4. In time of peace committees can be occupied in rendering themselves truly useful in time of war ; especially in preparing materials of all kinds and in selecting and training volunteer nurses.

ART. 5. In case of war, the committees of the belligerent nations will furnish, according to their resources, aid to their respective armies ; particularly in organizing and putting into active service the volunteer nurses, and arranging the localities for the wounded in accordance with the military authorities ; they can solicit the assistance of the committees belonging to neutral nations.

CONVENTION OF GENEVA.

FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF THE WOUNDED IN ARMIES AT THE FIELD. AUGUST 22, 1864.

The sovereigns of the following countries, to wit : Baden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Spain, Portugal, France, Prussia, Saxony, Wurtemberg, and the Federal Council of Switzerland, animated with a common desire of mitigating as far as in their power the evils inseparable from war, of suppressing needless severities and of ameliorating the condition of soldiers wounded on fields of battle, having concluded to determine a treaty for this purpose ; and having named plenipotentiaries to sign such a convention, these plenipotentiaries after the due interchange of their powers, found to be in good and proper form, have agreed upon the following articles, to wit :

ARTICLE I. Ambulances [field hospitals] and military hospitals shall be acknowledged to be neutral, and as such shall be protected and respected by belligerents so long as any sick or wounded may be therein. Such neutrality shall cease, if the ambulances or hospitals should be held by a military force.

ARTICLE 2. Persons employed in hospitals and ambulances, comprising the staff for superintendence, medical service, administration, transport of wounded, as well as chaplains, shall participate in the benefit of neutrality whilst so employed, and so long as there remain any to bring in or to succor.

ARTICLE 3. The persons designated in the preceding article may, even after occupation by the enemy, continue to fulfil their duties in the hospital or ambulance which they may have, or may withdraw in order to regain the corps to which they belong. Under such circumstances, when the persons shall cease from their functions, they shall be delivered by the occupying army to the outposts of the enemy. They shall have specially the right of sending a representative to the headquarters of their respective armies.

ARTICLE 4. As the equipment of military hospitals remains subject to the laws of war persons attached to such hospitals cannot on withdrawing carry away any articles but such as are their private property. Under the same circumstances an ambulance shall, on the contrary, retain its equipment.

ARTICLE 5. Inhabitants of the country who may bring help to the wounded shall be respected and shall remain free. The generals of the belligerent powers shall make it their care to inform the inhabitants of the appeal addressed to their humanity, and of the neutrality which will be the consequence of it. Any wounded man entertained and taken care of in a house shall be considered as a protection thereto. Any inhabitant who shall have entertained wounded men in his house, shall be exempted from the quartering of troops as well as from a part of the contributions of war which may be imposed.

ARTICLE 6. Wounded or sick soldiers shall be entertained and taken care of to whatever nation they may belong. Commanders-in-chief shall have the power to deliver immediately to the outposts of the enemy, soldiers who have been wounded in an engagement, when circumstances permit this to be done, and with the consent of both parties. Those who are recognized after they are healed as incapable of serving, shall be sent back to their country. The others may also be sent back on condition of not again bearing arms during the continuance of the war. Evacuations, together with the persons under whose directions they take place, shall be protected by an absolute neutrality.

ARTICLE 7. A distinctive and uniform flag shall be adopted for hospitals, ambulances and evacuations. It must on every occasion be accompanied by the national flag. An arm badge [*brassard*] shall also be allowed for individuals neutralized, but the delivery thereof shall be left to military authority. The flag and arm badge shall bear a red cross on a white ground.

ARTICLE 8. The details of execution of the present convention shall be regulated by the commanders-in-chief of belligerent armies, according to the instructions of their respective governments, and in conformity with the general principles laid down in this convention.

ARTICLE 9. The high contracting powers have agreed to communicate the present convention to those governments which have not found it convenient to send plenipotentiaries to the international Convention at Geneva, with an invitation to accede thereto; the protocol is, for that purpose, left open.

ARTICLE 10. The present convention shall be ratified and the ratification shall be exchanged at Berne, in four months, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Geneva, the 23d day of August, 1864.

GOVERNMENTS ADOPTING THE TREATY.

List in chronological order of the governments which have adopted the articles of the Convention of Geneva, of the 22d of August, 1864:

*France, Sept. 22, 1864.	*Switzerland, Oct. 1, 1864.
*Belgium, Oct. 14, 1864.	*Netherlands, Nov. 29, 1864.
*Italy, Dec. 4, 1864.	*Spain, Dec. 5, 1864.
*Sweden and Norway, Dec. 13, 1864.	*Denmark, Dec. 15, 1864.
*Baden, Dec. 16, 1864.	Greece, Jan. 17, 1865.
Great Britain, Feb. 18, 1865.	Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mar. 9, '65.
*Prussia, June 22, 1865.	Turkey, July 5, 1865.
*Wurtemberg, June 2, 1866.	*Hesse Darmstadt, June 22, 1866.
Bavaria, June 30, 1866.	Austria, July 21, 1866.
*Portugal, Aug. 9, 1866.	Saxony, Oct. 25, 1866.
Russia, May 22, 1867.	Pontifical States, May 9, 1868.
Roumania, Nov. 30, 1874.	Persia, Dec. 5, 1874.
San Salvador, Dec. 30, 1874.	Montenegro, Nov. 29, 1875.
Servia, March 24, 1876.	Bolivia, Oct. 16, 1879.
Chili, Nov. 15, 1879.	Argentine Republic, Nov. 25, 1879.
Peru, April 22, 1880.	

These countries have formed societies to co operate with the Treaty.

The Convention of Geneva was signed the 22d of August, 1864, by the twelve countries of which the name is preceded by an *.

TO THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND PEOPLE
OF THE UNITED STATES.

ADDRESS

BY

MISS CLARA BARTON.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE RED CROSS of Geneva is attracting so much attention among influential persons, and among foreign nations, and the interest of the people of the United States is so certain to be ultimately and deeply aroused by the humane, peaceful and practical charities which it symbolizes, that it seems desirable at once to explain as fully as may be, its true character, its principles and its methods of work, its history and development, especially the American modification of it.

For this explanation no one appeared so competent as the President* of the American branch of this International Association. No one so prepared by practical work on battle fields and by thorough comprehension of everything relating to the subject. The committee of direction has accordingly requested her to prepare some further and more adequate statement of all that the Red Cross of Geneva means, and is. With that request she has complied and we recommend this statement with great confidence to the Congress and people of the United States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov., 1881.

*Miss Barton was nominated for President of the American (National) Association of the Red Cross by President Garfield on the 9th of June, 1881.

ADDRESS
BY MISS CLARA BARTON.

...

To the President, Congress, and People of the United States :

A brief statement of how I became acquainted with the society of the Red Cross may serve to explain at once its principles and methods, as well as the present attitude of our government in regard to that society.

The practical beneficence of the sanitary and christian commissions of the United States attracted the attention of the civilized world. I had borne some part in the operations of field hospitals in actual service in the battles of the Rebellion, and some public notice had been taken of that work. But, broken in health, I was directed by my physicians to go to Europe prepared to remain three years.

In September, 1869, I arrived at Geneva, Switzerland. In October I was visited by the President and members of the "International Committee for the relief

of the wounded in war." They wished to learn if possible why the United States had declined to sign the Treaty. Our position was incomprehensible to them. If the Treaty had originated with a monarchial government they could see some ground for hesitancy. But it originated in a Republic older than our own. To what did America object, and how could these objections be overcome? They had twice formally presented it to the government at Washington, once in 1864 through our Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne, who was present at the convention, again in 1868 through Rev. Dr. Henry W. Bellows, the great head of war relief in America. They had failed in both instances. No satisfactory nor adequate reason had ever been given by the nation for the course pursued. They had thought the people of America, with their grand sanitary record, would be the first to appreciate and accept it. I listened in silent wonder to all this recital, and when I did reply it was to say that I had never in America heard of the Convention of Geneva nor of the Treaty, and was sure that as a country America did not know she had declined; that she would be the last to withhold recognition of a humane movement; that it had doubtless been referred to and declined by some one department of the government, or some one official, and had never been submitted to

the people ; and as its literature was in languages foreign to our English speaking population, it had no way of reaching us.

You will naturally infer that I examined it. I became all the time more deeply impressed with the wisdom of its principles, the good practical sense of its details, and its extreme usefulness in practice. Humane intelligence had devised its provisions and peculiarly adapted it to win popular favor. The absurdity of our own position in relation to it was simply marvellous. As I counted up its roll of twenty-two nations—not a civilized people in the world but ourselves missing, and saw Greece, Spain, and Turkey there, I began to fear that in the eyes of the “rest of mankind” we could not be far from barbarians. This reflection did not furnish a stimulating food for national pride. I grew more and more ashamed. But the winter wore on as winters do with invalids abroad. The summer found me at Berne in quest of strength among its mountain views and baths.

On the 15th of July, 1870, France declared war against Prussia. Within three days a band of agents from the “International Committee of Geneva,” headed by Dr. Louis Appia, (one of the prime movers of the Convention) equipped for work and en route for the seat of war, stood at the door of my villa inviting me to go

with them and take such part as I had taken in our own war. I had not strength to trust for that and declined with thanks, promising to follow in my own time and way, and I did follow within a week. No shot had then been fired—no man had fallen; yet this organized, powerful commission was on its way, with its skilled agents, ready to receive, direct and dispense the charities and accumulations which the generous sympathies of twenty-two nations, if applied to, might place at its disposal. These men had Treaty power to go directly on to any field, and work unmolested in full co-operation with the military and commanders-in-chief; their supplies held sacred and their efforts recognized and seconded in every direction by either belligerent army. Not a man could lie uncared for nor unfed. I thought of the Peninsula in McClellan's campaign,—of Pittsburg Landing,—Cedar Mountain and second Bull Run,—Antietam,—Old Fredericksburg with its acres of snow-covered and gun-covered *glacée*, and its fourth day flag of truce; of its dead and starving wounded, frozen to the ground, and our commissions and their supplies in Washington with no effective organization or power to go beyond; of the Petersburg mine with its four thousand dead and wounded and no flag of truce, the wounded broiling in a July sun,—died and rotted where they fell. I remem-

bered our prisons, crowded with starving men whom all the powers and pities of the world could not reach even with a bit of bread. I thought of the widows' weeds still fresh and dark through all the land, north and south, from the pine to the palm; the shadows on the hearths and hearts over all my country. Sore, broken hearts, ruined, desolate homes! Was this people to decline a humanity in war? Was this a country to reject a Treaty for the help of wounded soldiers? Were these the women and men to stand aloof and consider? I believed if these people knew that the last cloud of war had forever passed from their horizon, the tender, painful, deathless memories of what had been would bring them in with a force no power could resist. They needed only to know.

As I journeyed on and saw the work of these Red Cross societies in the field, accomplishing in four months under their systematic organization what we failed to accomplish in four years without it—no mistakes, no needless suffering, no starving, no lack of care, no waste, no confusion, but order, plenty, cleanliness and comfort wherever that little flag made its way—a whole continent marshaled under the banner of the Red Cross—as I saw all this, and joined and worked in it, you will not wonder that I said to myself “If I live to return to my

country I will try to make my people understand the Red Cross and that Treaty." But I did more than resolve, I promised other nations I would do it, and other reasons pressed me to remember my promise. The Franco Prussian war and the war of the commune were both enormous in the extent of their operations and in the suffering of individuals. This great modern international impulse of charity went out everywhere to meet and alleviate its miseries. The small, poor countries gave of their poverty and the rich nations poured out abundantly of their vast resources. The contributions of those under the Red Cross went quietly, promptly through international responsible channels, were thoughtfully and carefully distributed through well known agents, returns, accurate to a franc, were made and duly published to the credit of the contributing nations, and *the object aimed at was accomplished*. America, filled with German and French people, with people humane and universal in their instincts of citizenship and brotherhood, freighted ships with supplies and contributions in money prodigal and vast. They arrived in Europe but they were not under the Treaty regulations. No sign of the Red Cross authorized anyone to receive and distribute them. The poor baffled agents, honest, well meaning and indefatigable, did all that individuals with-

out system or organization could do. But for the most part the magnificent charity of America was misapplied and went as unsystematized charity always tends to go, to ruin and to utter waste. *The object aimed at was not accomplished*, and at the end of the report of the Red Cross organization occurs something like this; It is said that the United States of America also contributed something for the sick and wounded, but what, or how much, or to whom, or when or where, it is impossible to tell.

In the autumn of 1873 I returned to America more broken in health than when I left in '69. Then followed years of suffering in which I forgot how to walk, but I remembered my resolve and my promise. After almost five years I was able to go to Washington with a letter from Monsieur Moynier, President of the International Committee of Geneva, to the President of the United States, asking once more that our government accede to the articles of the Convention. Having been made the official bearer of this letter, I presented it in 1877 to President Hayes, who received it kindly, referring it to his Secretary of State, Mr. Evarts, who in his turn referred it to his assistant secretary as the person who would know all about it, examine and report for decision. I then saw how it was made to depend not alone upon one

department, but one man, who had been the assistant secretary of state in 1864 and also in 1868 when the Treaty had been on the two previous occasions presented to our government. It was a settled thing. There was nothing to hope for from that administration. The matter had been officially referred and would be decided accordingly. It would be declined* because it had been declined. If I pressed it to a decision, it would only weigh it down with a third refusal. I waited. My next thought was to refer it to Congress. That step would be irregular, and discourteous to the administration. I did not like to take it, still I attempted it but could not get it considered, for it promised neither political influence, patronage, nor votes.

The next year I returned to Washington to try Congress again. I published a little pamphlet of two leaves addressed to the members and senators, to be laid upon their desks in the hope they would take the trouble to read so little as that, and be by so much the better prepared to consider and act upon a bill if I could get one before them. My strength failed before I could get that bill presented, and I went home again in midwinter. There then remained but a portion of the term of that administration, and I determined, if possible, to outlive it, hoping another would be more respons-

ive. Meanwhile I wrote, talked, and did whatever I could to spread the idea among the people, and last March, when the administration of President Garfield came in, I went again to Washington. The subject was very cordially received by the President and carefully referred by him to Secretary Blaine, who considered it himself, conferred fully with me, and finally laid it before the President and the Cabinet. Perhaps the most satisfactory account of that transaction will be found in the letter of Mr. Blaine addressed to me, (see page 41), which gives the assurance that President Garfield would recommend the adoption of the Treaty in his message to Congress.

What were the provisions of that Treaty which had been so conspicuously and persistently neglected and apparently rejected by this whole government, whose people are as humane as any people in the world, and as ready to adopt plain and common sense provisions against evils sure to come upon themselves and those whom they hold most dear? It was merely the proposed adoption of a treaty by this government with other nations for the purpose of ameliorating the conditions incident to warfare, humanizing its regulations, softening its barbarities, and so far as possible, lessening the sufferings of the wounded and sick who fall by it.

This Treaty consists of a code of ten articles (see page 49) formed and adopted by the International Convention of Geneva, Switzerland, held August 22d, 1864, which convention was composed of delegates, two or more from each of the civilized nations of the world, and was called at the instance of the members of the Society of Public Utility of the country of Switzerland. The sittings of the convention occupied four days, and resulted as before stated in a code of ten articles, to be taken by the delegates there present back to the governments of their respective countries for ratification. Four months were allowed for consideration and decision by the governments, and all acceding within that time were held as having signed at the convention. At the close of this period, it was found that twelve nations had endorsed the terms of the Treaty and signed its articles. The protocol was left open for such as should follow. The articles of this Treaty provide, as its first and most important feature, for the entire and strict neutrality of all material and supplies contributed by any nation for the use of the sick and wounded in war; also that persons engaged in the distribution of them, shall not be subject to capture; that all hospitals, general or field, shall be neutral, respected and protected by all belligerents; that all persons comprising the medical service,

surgeons, chaplains, superintendents, shall be neutral, continuing their work after the occupation of a field or post the same as before, and when no longer needed be free to retire; that they may send a representative to their own headquarters if needful; that field hospitals shall retain their own equipments; that inhabitants of a country who entertain and care for the wounded of either side, in their houses, shall be protected; that the generals of an army shall so inform the people; that commanders-in-chief shall have the power to deliver immediately to the outposts of the enemy soldiers who have been wounded in an engagement, both parties consenting to the same; that the wounded, incapable of serving, shall be returned when healed; that all transports of wounded and all evacuations of posts or towns shall be protected by absolute neutrality. That the sick and wounded shall be entertained regardless of nationality; and that commanders-in-chief shall act in accordance with the instructions of their respective governments, and in conformity to the Treaty. In order that all may understand, and no mistake be possible, it also provides that one uniform international flag shall mark all hospitals, all posts of sick and wounded, and one uniform badge or sign shall mark all hospital material, and be worn by all persons properly engaged in the hospi-

tal service of any nation included within the Treaty ; that this international flag and sign shall be a red cross on a white ground, and that the nations within the compact shall not cease their endeavors until every other nation capable of making war shall have signed this Treaty, and thus acceded to the general principles of humanity in warfare recognized by other peoples.

Thirty-one governments have already signed this Treaty, thirty-one nations are in this humane compact. The United States of America is not in it, and the work to which your attention is called, and which has occupied me for the last several years, is to induce her to place herself there.

This is what the Red Cross means, not an order of knighthood, not a commandery, not a secret society, not a society at all by itself, but the powerful, peaceful sign and the reducing to practical usefulness of one of the broadest and most needed humanities the world has ever known.

These articles, it will be observed, constitute at once a treaty governing our relations with foreign nations, and additional articles of war governing the conduct of our military forces in the field. As a treaty under the constitution, the President and Senate are competent to deal with them ; as additional articles of war, Congress

must sanction and adopt them before they can become effective and binding upon the government and the people. For this reason I have appealed to Congress as well as to the Executive Department.

On the breaking up of the original convention at Geneva, the practical work of organizing its principles into form and making them understood and adopted by the people, devolved upon seven men, mainly those who had been instrumental in calling it. These men were peculiarly fitted for this work by special training, enlarged views, and a comprehensive charity, no less than by practical insight, knowledge of the facts and needs of the situation, and a brave trust in the humane instincts of human nature. They are known to-day the world over as "The International Committee of Geneva for the relief of the sick and wounded in war." This committee is international, and is the one medium through which all nations within the Treaty transact business and carry on correspondence.

The first act of each nation subsequent to the Treaty has been to establish a central society of its own, which of course is national, and which has general charge and direction of the work of its own country. Under these comes the establishment of state, and local societies. It will be perceived that their system, aside from

its international feature is very nearly what our own war relief societies would have been had they retained permanent organization. Indeed, it is believed that we furnished for their admirable system some very valuable ideas. The success of the Red Cross associations consists in their making their societies permanent, holding their organizations firm and intact, guarding their supplies, saving their property from waste, destruction and pillage, and making the persons in charge of the gifts of the people as strictly responsible for straight-forward conduct and honest returns, as they would be for the personal property of an individual, a business firm, or a bank.

In attempting to present to the people of this country the plan of the Red Cross societies, it is proper to explain that originally and as operating in other countries they recognize only the miseries arising from war. Their humanities, although immense, are confined to this war center. The Treaty does not cover more than this, but the resolutions for the establishment of societies under the Treaty, permit them to organize in accordance with the spirit and needs of their nationalities. By our geographical position and isolation we are far less liable to the disturbances of war than the nations of Europe, which are so frequently called upon that they do

well to keep in readiness for the exigences of war alone. But no country is more liable than our own to great overmastering calamities, various, wide-spread and terrible. Seldom a year passes that the nation from sea to sea is not by the shock of some sudden, unforeseen disaster brought to utter consternation, and stands shivering like a ship in a gale, powerless, horrified and despairing. Plagues, cholera, fires, flood, famine all bear upon us with terrible force. Like war these events are entirely out of the common course of woes and necessities. Like death they are sure to come in some form and at some time, and like it no mortal knows where, how or when. What have we in readiness to meet these emergencies save the good heart of our people and their impulsive, generous gifts? Certainly no organized system for collection, reception nor distribution; no agents, nurses nor material, and worst of all no funds; nowhere any resources in reserve for use in such an hour of peril and national woe; every movement crude, confused and unsystematized, everything as unprepared as if we had never known a calamity before and had no reason to expect one again. Meanwhile the suffering victims wait! True, in the shock we bestow most generously, lavishly even. Men "on 'Change" plunge their hands into their pockets and throw their gold to strang-

ers, who may have neither preparation nor fitness for the work they undertake, and often no guaranty for honesty. Women, in the terror and excitement of the moment and in their eagerness to aid, beg in the streets and rush into fairs, working day and night, to the neglect of other duties in the present, and at the peril of all health in the future—often an enormous outlay for very meagre returns. Thus our gifts fall far short of their best, being hastily bestowed, irresponsibly received and wastefully applied. We should not, even if to some degree we might, depend upon our ordinary charitable and church societies to meet these great catastrophes; they are always overtaxed. Our communities abound in charitable societies, but each has its specific object to which its resources are and must be applied; consequently they cannot be relied upon for prompt and abundant aid in a great and sudden emergency. This must necessarily be the case with all societies which organize to work for a specific charity. And this is as it should be; it is enough that they do constantly bestow. Charity bears an open palm, to give is her mission. But I have never classed these Red Cross societies with charities, I have rather considered them as a wise national provision which seeks to garner and store up something against an hour of sudden need. In all our land

we have not one organization of this nature and which acts upon the system of conserved resources. Our people have been more wise and thoughtful in the establishment of means for preventing and arresting the destruction of property than the destruction of human life and the lessening of consequent suffering. They have provided and maintain at an immense cost, in the aggregate, a system of fire departments with their expensive buildings and apparatus, with their fine horses and strong men kept constantly in readiness to dash to the rescue at the first dread clang of the fire bell. Still, while the electric current may flash upon us at any moment its ill tidings of some great human distress, we have no means of relief in readiness such as these Red Cross societies would furnish.

I beg you will not feel that in the presentation of this plan of action I seek to add to the labors of the people. On the contrary I am striving to lessen them by making previous, calm preparation do away with the strain and confusion of unexpected necessities and haste. I am providing not weariness but rest.

And again, I would not be understood as suggesting the raising of more monies for charitable purposes; rather I am trying to save the people's means, to economize their charities, to make their gifts do more by the

prevention of needless waste and extravagance. If I thought that the formation of these societies would add a burden to our people I would be the last to advocate it. I would not, however, yield the fact of the Treaty. For patriotism, for national honor, I would stand by that at all cost. My first and greatest endeavor has been to wipe from the scroll of my country's fame the stain of imputed lack of common humanity, to take her out of the roll of barbarians. I said that in 1869 there were twenty two nations in the compact. There are now thirty-one, for since that date have been added Roumania, Persia, San Salvador, Montenegro, Servia, Bolivia, Chili, Argentine Republic and Peru. If the United States of America is fortunate and dilligent, she may, perhaps, come to stand No. 32 in the roll of civilization and humanity. If not, she will remain where she at present stands, among the barbarians and the heather.

In considering this condition of things it seemed desirable to so extend the original design of the Red Cross societies operating in other lands, as to include not only suffering by war but by pestilence, famine, fires or floods,—in short any unlooked-for calamity so great as to place it beyond the means of ordinary local charity, and which by public opinion would be pronounced

a national calamity; but that this addition should in no way impair the original functions of the society, and that for their own well being they should be held firm by the distinguishing feature of the international constitution which provides that local societies shall not act except upon orders from the National Association which is charged with the duty of being so fully informed upon all such subjects, both at home and abroad, as to constitute it the most competent judge of the magnitude and gravity of any catastrophe.

During all these years no societies under the true banner of the Red Cross of Geneva were or could be organized, for the government had not yet ratified the Treaty and no department of the government had then intimated that it ever would be ratified. It could not be a responsible or quite an honest movement on my part to proceed to the formation of societies to act under and in conformity to a treaty of special character so long as our government recognized no such treaty and I could get no assurance that it ever would or indeed could recognize it.

But this delay in the formation of societies, however embarrassing, was in no manner able to interfere with the general plan, or the working details for its operations, which had been arranged and decided upon before the

presentation of the subject to the government in 1877, and published in pamphlet form in 1878, making it to cover, as it now does, the entire field of national relief for great national woes and calamities in time of peace, no less than in war. The wise provisions, careful preparations, and thorough system which had been found so efficient in the permanent societies of the Red Cross in other countries, could not fail, I thought, to constitute both a useful and powerful system of relief in any class of disasters. I therefore ventured so far upon the generous spirit of their original resolutions, in the plan of our societies as, mechanically speaking, to attach to this vast motor power the extra, and hitherto dead weight of our great national calamities, in order that the same force should apply to all, and serve to lighten, I hoped, so far as possible, not only the woes of those, directly called to suffer, but the burdens on the hearts and hands of those called to sympathize with their sufferings. The time allowed for the practical test of this experiment has been short. Scarcely three months in which to organize and act; but the brave societies of the Red Cross of Western New York, at this moment standing so nobly among their flame-stricken neighbors of Michigan—so generously responding to their calls for help, are quite sufficient, I believe, to show what the

action and results of this combined system will be, when recognized and inaugurated.

It may be said that this Treaty jeopardizes our traditional policy which jealously guards against entangling alliances abroad, that as we are exempt by our geographical position from occasions for war this Treaty must bring us not benefits but only burdens from other people's calamities and wars—calamities and wars which we do not create and of which we may properly reap the incidental advantages. But this Treaty binds none to bear burdens but only to refrain from cruelties; it binds not to give but to allow others to give wisely and to work humanely if they will, while all shall guarantee to them undisturbed activity in deeds of charity. There is then in the Red Cross no "entangling alliance" that any but a barbarian at war can feel as a restraint. This inculcated wariness of foreign influences wonderfully freshened by the conduct of foreign rulers and writers during the Rebellion and deepened by the crimes and the craft directed primarily at Mexico, and ultimately at us, made the people of America in 1864 and 1868 devoutly thankful for the friendly and stormy sea that rolled between them and the European states. And it is not perhaps altogether strange that American statesmen, inspired by such a public opinion, should then have

been but little inclined to look with favor upon any new international obligations however specious in appearance or humane in fact. But the award of Geneva surely opened the way for the Red Cross of Geneva. Time and success have made plain the nation's path. The postal treaty since made among all nations and entered into heartily by this has proved salutary to all. It has removed every valid state reason for opposition to the harmless, humane and peaceful provisions of the Treaty of the Red Cross.

But in the midst of the rugged facts of war come sentimental objections and objectors. For, deplore it as we may, war *is the great fact* of all history and its most pitiable feature is not after all so much the great numbers slain, wounded and captured in battle, as their cruel after treatment as wounded and prisoners, no adequate provision being made for their necessities, no humane care even permitted, except at the risk of death or imprisonment as spies, of those moved by wise pity or a simple religious zeal. Among these hard facts appears a conscientious theorist and asks, Is not war a great sin and wrong? Ought we to provide for it, to make it easy, to lessen its horrors, to mitigate its sufferings? Shall we not in this way encourage rulers and peoples to engage in war for slight and fancied grievances? We

provide for the victims of the great wrong and sin of intemperance. These are for the most part voluntary victims, each in a measure the arbiter of his own fate. The soldier has generally no part, no voice in creating the war in which he fights. He simply obeys as he must his superiors and the laws of his country. Yes, it is a great wrong and sin and for that reason I would provide not only for, but against it.

But here comes the speculative theorist! Isn't it encouraging a bad principle; wouldn't it be better to do away with all war? Wouldn't peace societies be better? Oh yes, my friend, as much better as the millenium would be better than this, but it is not here. Hard facts are here; war is here; war is the outgrowth, indicator and relic of barbarism. Civilization alone will do away with it, and scarcely a quarter of the earth is yet civilized, and that quarter not beyond the possibilities of war. It is a long step yet to permanent peace. We cannot cross a stream until we reach it. The sober truth is, we are called to deal with facts, not theories, we must practice if we would teach. And be assured, my friends, there is not a peace society on the face of the earth to-day nor ever will be, so potent, so effectual against war as the Red Cross of Geneva.

The sooner the world learns that the halo of glory

which surrounds a field of battle and its tortured, thirsting, starving, pain racked, dying victims exists only in imagination ; that it is all sentiment, delusion, falsehood, given for effect ; that soldiers do not die painless deaths, that the sum of all human agony finds its equivalent on the battle field, in the hospital, by the weary wayside and in the prison ; that deck it as you will it is agony ; the sooner and more thoroughly the people of the earth are brought to realize and appreciate these facts, the more slow and considerate they will be about rushing into hasty and needless wars, and the less popular war will become. Death by the bullet painless ! What did this nation do during eighty agonizing and memorable days but to watch the effects of one bullet wound ? Was it painless ? Painless either to the victim or the nation ? Though canopied by a fortitude, patience, faith and courage scarce exceeded in the annals of history, still was it agony. And when in his delirious dreams the dying president murmured, "The great heart of the nation will not let the soldier die," I prayed God to hasten the time when every wounded soldier would be sustained by this sweet assurance ; that in the combined sympathies, wisdom, enlightenment and power of the nations he should indeed feel that the great heart of the people would not let the soldier die.

Friends, was it accident, or was it providence which made it one of the last acts of James A. Garfield in health to pledge himself to urge upon the representatives of his people in Congress assembled, this great national step for the relief and care of wounded men? Living or dying it was his act and his wish, and no member in that honored, considerate and humane body but will feel himself in some manner holden to see it carried out.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF DANSVILLE.

To the American Association of the Red Cross, Washington, D. C. :

In reply to your request, given through the Secretary of your Association, that we make report to you concerning the inauguration of our Society, its subsequent proceedings, and present condition, the committee has the honor to submit the following statement :

Dansville, Livingston Co., N. Y., being the country residence of Miss Clara Barton, President of the American Association of the Red Cross, its citizens desirous of paying a compliment to her, and at the same time doing an honor to themselves, conceived the idea of organizing in their town the first local society of the Red Cross in the United States. To this end a general preliminary meeting was held in the Presbyterian church, when the principles of the Treaty of Geneva, and the nature of its societies were defined in a clear and practical manner by Miss Barton, who had been invited to address the meeting. Shortly after, on the 22d of August, 1881, a second meeting, for the purpose of organization, held in the Lutheran church and presided over by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Strobel, was attended by the citizens generally, including nearly all the religious denominations of the town with their respective pastors. The purpose of the meeting was explained by your President, a constitution presented and very largely signed, and officers elected.

Thus we are able to announce, that on the eighteenth anniversary of the Treaty of Geneva in Switzerland, August 22d, 1864, was formed the first local society of the Red Cross in the United States of America. We most respectfully submit for your inspection the following copy of its

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME—LOCATION.—This Association shall be known as the "Dansville Society of the Red Cross," located at Dansville, Livingston Co., New York, which society shall be auxiliary to the New York state society of the Red Cross, and shall constitute Local Society No. 1.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECTS AND DUTIES.—The objects of this society are: First, To procure the adoption by the government of the United States of the Treaty of the Convention of Geneva, Aug. 22, 1864, the object of such Treaty being the prevention of unnecessary barbarities in war, the alleviation of suffering on the field of battle, and in connection with the conflicts of war. Second, To cultivate a broad spirit of philanthropy, to obtain, translate and circulate the literature of the Red Cross of foreign societies, and to keep advised of the progress of the movement in our own country. Third, To accumulate funds and material; to provide nurses and assistants, if need be, and hold these for use or service in war, and also in case of other calamities, as famine, pestilence or fire, so great as to be considered national; such accumulations and service to be rendered up only on call of the National Association of the Red Cross, at Washington, D. C., through the State Association of New York.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.—New members can be admitted to this society by ballot of a majority of the members present at any regular meeting, by signing the constitution, and paying the regular fee in advance. Each member shall pay a yearly fee of \$— which shall become due at the annual meeting; arrears of annual fee for the period of eleven months, shall forfeit membership.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES—The officers of this association shall consist of a President, First Vice President, other Vice Presidents not to exceed one for each religious society in town, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Consulting Counsel, an Executive Board, a Board for Consultation, a Committee on Foreign Literature, and a Committee on Work.

ARTICLE V.—MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.—The annual meeting of the society, to hear the reports of the various officers, and act thereon, and to transact such other business as may legally come before it, shall be held on the first Tuesday in October. At the first annual meeting after the formation of the society the following officers shall be elected by ballot, viz: President, and First Vice President, members of the Executive Board, Secretary, and Treasurer. Elections to fill vacancies may be had at any regular meeting, or any meeting duly called for that purpose. Each member present shall be entitled to one vote. The candidate for any office receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. The President with the concurrence of the Executive Board may at any time convene a meeting of the society, and shall do so upon request of

the Executive Board. Nine members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VI.—EXECUTIVE BOARD.—The Executive Board shall consist of thirteen members, eleven of whom shall be chosen by ballot. This Board shall organize and proceed to appoint for the society a Consulting Counsel, a Board of Consultation, a Committee on Work, and such other committees or officers as shall be deemed necessary. The President and First Vice President shall be members ex officio of the Executive Board; the President to be chairman of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.—The President shall preside at all meetings of the society, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office. The Executive Board shall arrange the time for holding its meetings and shall convene at the call of its chairman. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. It shall take into consideration and act upon all questions concerning the objects sought by the society, and shall devise and adopt measures for the attainment of said objects. It shall confer with the Board of Consultation whenever its counsel and advice may seem desirable. It shall prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the society a report of its transactions during the year. The Treasurer shall receive, invest and disburse the funds of the society, but only upon written order signed by the President and Secretary of the Executive Board, and he shall provide and furnish such bonds for the faithful performance of the duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board. The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of the transactions of business at all meetings of the society, and shall attend to such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the President. The Committee on Foreign Literature shall procure and translate the published works of Red Cross societies in other countries, and prepare the same for reading before the society or for publication, whenever requested.

ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENTS.—This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present, one month's previous notice in writing specifying the intended amendment having been given at a meeting of this society, provided such amendment does not in any way conflict with the spirit and restrictions of Article II of this constitution.

The following officers were chosen: President, Mr. George A. Sweet; First Vice President, Mrs. Fanny B. Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. Mary Noyes

Colvin; Treasurer, Hon. James Faulkner, Jr.; Executive Board, Miss Clara Barton, Maj. Mark J. Bunnell, Dr. G. Bastian, Maj. E. H. Pratt, Mrs. George Hartman, Mr. T. E. Gallagher, Mr. William Kramer, Mr. Osear Woodruff, Mrs. Reuben Whiteman, Mrs. (Rev.) L. Q. Galpin; Consulting Counsel, Judge John A. VanDerlip.

THE RED CROSS AT WORK.

Before a month had passed, before a thought of practical application to business had arisen, we were forcibly and sadly taught again the old lesson, that we need but to build the altar, God will himself provide the sacrifice. If we did not hear the crackling of the flames, our skies grew murky and dark, and our atmosphere bitter with the drifting smoke that rolled over from the blazing fields of our neighbors of Michigan; whose living thousands fled in terror, whose dying hundreds writhed in the embers, and whose dead blackened in the ashes of their hard-earned homes. Instantly we felt the help and strength of our organization, young and untried as it was. We were grateful that in this first ordeal your sympathetic President was with us. We were deeply grateful for your prompt call to action, given through her, which rallied us to our work. Our Relief Rooms were instantly secured and our white banner with its bright scarlet cross, which has never been furled since that hour, was thrown to the breeze, telling to every looker on what we were there to do, and pointing to every generous heart an outlet for its sympathy. We had not mistaken the spirit of our people; our scarce-opened doorway was filled with men women and children, bearing their gifts of pity and love. Tables and shelves were piled, our working committee of ladies took every article under inspection, their faithful hands made all garments whole and strong; lastly, each article received the stamp of the society and of the Red Cross, and all were carefully and quickly consigned to the firm packing cases awaiting them. Eight large boxes were shipped at first, others followed directly, and so continued until notified by the Relief Committee of Michigan that no more were needed. Meanwhile the hands of our Treasurer were not left empty, some hundreds of dollars were deposited with him. A most competent agent, our esteemed townsman and County Clerk of Livingston, Major Mark J. Bunnell, was dispatched with the first invoice of funds, and charged with the duty of the reception of the supplies, their proper distribution, and of making direct report of the condition and needs of the sufferers.

The good practical judgment of the people and society led them to consider the near approach of winter and the unsheltered condition of the victims, bereft of every earthly possession, and warm clothing and bedding were sent in great abundance. Our cases were all marked with the Red Cross and consigned to Senator Omar D. Conger of Port Huron who led the call of the Michigan committee, and to whom, as well as his kind-hearted and practical wife, we are indebted for many timely suggestions, and words of grateful appreciation.

In a spirit of gratitude and hope, we submit this partial report of our first work under the Red Cross, which can be but partial, as our rooms are still open and our work in progress awaiting such further calls as may come to us. We are grateful that we were called, grateful that your honored President, with the acquired skill of the humane labors of many years in many lands, was with us to counsel and instruct. We are glad to have learned from this early object lesson the value of organized effort, and the value of our own organization.

We hope our report may be satisfactory to you and that our beautiful little valley town, quietly nestling among the green slopes of Genesee, after having offered the first fruits of the Red Cross to its own countrymen, may always be as prompt and generous in any call of yours for suffering humanity.

SOCIETY OF THE RED CROSS OF MONROE COUNTY.

Influential citizens of Rochester, Monroe County, New York, having become interested in the subject of the Treaty of Geneva and the Red Cross work going on in Dansville, sent a request through the Mayor of the city to Miss Clara Barton to address them in a public meeting. Miss Barton met an audience of thinking, philanthropic men and women to whom it was a pleasure to unfold her theme. The result was a proposition to organize a society before adjournment. Accordingly names were pledged, and the second evening after, a constitution was adopted and the following officers elected: President, Edward M. Moore, M. D.; First Vice President, Mrs. Sarah Nichols; Secretary, Rev. H. C. Riggs; Treasurer, J. E. Pierpont. Executive Committee—John S. Morgan, Edwin O. Sage, Mrs. Chas. Fitz Simons, Rev. Chas. Stebenpfeiffer, A. B. Hone, Mrs. William Alling, Rev. N. M. Mann, Miss Susan B. Anthony, Alexander B. Hows, Dr. B. L. Hovey, Dr. A. Mandeville, Henry Michaelis, Dr. Sarah R.

A. Dolley, John W. Deuel, Rev. T. Edwin Brown; and sixteen Vice Presidents for the various wards.

Steps were immediately taken for reducing to practice the theory of their newly-formed society, and in three days from its existence, its agent, Professor J. B. Hubbell, was on the burnt fields of Michigan with instructions to examine into the condition of the people and report their necessities to the society from actual observation. These duties were faithfully and judiciously performed and the day following his report of the special need of money, the sum of \$2,500 in cash was forwarded as a first installment. At last reports the sum raised amounted to \$3,807.28 and the society numbered 250 members. It is evident that no full report can be made concerning a movement of which only the first steps are taken, and which is still in active operation, but it is believed that the instances are rare, when with no distress of its own as an incentive, but from the simple motive of benevolence, a people has accomplished so much, both in organization and practical results, in so brief a space of time.

SOCIETY OF THE RED CROSS OF ONONDAGA COUNTY.

Following close on the organization in Rochester, the citizens of the sister city of Syracuse and vicinity, in Onondaga Co., New York, met at the Board of Trade rooms and perfected their organization under the above name. Rev. Dr. Richmond Fiske, a widely known philanthropist, prominently connected with the principal charities of the city, assisted by Professor G. F. Comfort of the Syracuse University, led the movement. The constitution embracing in admirable form the principles of the Geneva Convention, was signed by a large number present, and officers appointed representing the names of the leading people of the city, among them, Hon. Irving G. Vann, President, Miss Eliza Lawrence, First Vice President, and other Vice Presidents from Presbyterian, Unitarian, Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Congregational, Universalist, Baptist, Israelite, Reformed Lutheran, Christian and Wesleyan churches. Like the other societies, this proceeded to immediate and effective work for the sufferers from fires in Michigan. Only partial accounts of this last-formed society have reached us, but these bear the impress of marked enthusiasm and spirit among the people.

ACTION OF THE DANSVILLE POST.

HEADQUARTERS BARTON POST, No. 216,
Department of New York, G. A. R., Dansville, N. Y. }

At a regular meeting of this post, held Tuesday evening, June 7th, 1881, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, The International Convention at Geneva, Switzerland, for the amelioration of the condition of wounded soldiers in time of war, and for furnishing relief in cases of great national calamity,—whose symbol is the Red Cross—is the grandest of human charities, and

Whereas, The treaty of this convention has been signed by every civilized nation except the United States, and is now presented to this government by Miss Clara Barton, its distinguished representative in this country, and,

Whereas, The purpose of this convention,—the relief of suffering soldiers,—is identical with the object of the Grand Army of the Republic

Resolved, That personally, and as an organization, we will do all that in our power lies, for the promotion of this grand scheme of benevolence, and the establishment of societies of the Red Cross in this country.

Resolved, That, in our judgment, it is the duty and should be the high purpose of the Grand Army of the Republic, to agitate this subject throughout its jurisdiction, and in proper manner, to urge its consideration upon congress, to the end that the United States, by its official action, may aid in the promotion of this great charity.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be immediately forwarded to Miss Clara Barton, at Washington, D. C.

Resolved, That the Commander of this Post be requested to communicate at once with such of the posts of the Department of the Potomac, as he may be able, urging their consideration of this subject, and inviting their co-operation.

(OFFICIAL)

Signed, SETH N. HEDGES, Post Commander,
CHAS. SUTFEN, Post Adjutant.

*ACTION OF THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT G. A. R.,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.*

At the fifteenth annual encampment of the Grand Army, at Indianapolis, June 15, 1881, Comrade S. S. Burdette of Washington, presented the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Whereas, The articles of the convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field, signed at Geneva, Au-

gust 22, 1864, are intended to introduce and make universal the law of kindness and brotherhood in times of war, and so to palliate its horrors among the sick and fallen; and,

Whereas, The principles formulated by the Geneva Convention have been adopted by treaty, by nearly all civilized nations of the earth, and are now presented for the sanction and adoption of the government of the United States, by Clara Barton, the delegate of the central commission having the matter in charge; and,

Whereas, The beneficent purposes of the convention commend themselves with peculiar force to the remnants of the Grand Army of the Republic, who remember the battle-fields and hospitals where their comrades fell and suffered; therefore,

Resolved, By the Grand Army in national encampment assembled, that the purposes of the Geneva Convention meet our hearty approval, and that its work is commended to the earnest attention of the treaty-making power, to the end that our own country, saved by the Grand Army, may be placed in the column of nations who recognize that the love of mercy may survive and conquer the evil passions engendered by war.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Miss Clara Barton, and that a copy be forwarded to the Secretary of State at Washington.

CONCERNING THE RED CROSS IN RUSSIA.

The following extract from Edward Fairfax Taylor's, "Russia Before and After the War," may serve to show the strong contrast between the regular military service and that of the Red Cross societies. The writer says:

The same want of foresight and order so conspicuous in most of the administrative departments of the state was felt in the management of the hospitals and all the medical arrangements for the war. Doctors only can be the proper judges of what, during a bloody war, is possible and attainable in the way of arrangements for mitigating the miseries of its victims. But it is just the doctors who are most severe in their strictures on the Medical Department for the degree of disorder and want of organization which surpass belief. * * * He quotes from a Doctor who had worked at Sistova: "The hospitals at Sistova consisted of what could hardly be called houses; they were rather holes or dens, bearing every mark of destruction, in which the Turks, their former inhabitants, had

left behind them the traces of their intolerable filth. The interiors were still more loathsome, and bore no appearance of ever having been intended for the reception of sick and wounded. The food was carried about in pails, which were taken straight, when emptied, to the wells to receive the water for preparing more victuals. It was distributed by dirty attendants, whose hands had not been washed for weeks, and whose appearance was enough to fill the most hardened with horror and disgust. The utensils for the food were smeared with fat, dirt, and all manner of unsavory garbage. 'Why am I here at all?' remarked one of the doctors at Sistova: 'there is not a single thing to be had--no servants, no medicines, no provisions.' More than a score of wounded wretches were lying in hospital No. 50 at the beginning of August, who, after having been jolted about for three hours in springless carts, remained for forty hours without food and without a doctor; and this happened, not in suddenly improvised hospitals near the scene of action, but at regular hospitals in a large town, where arrangements had previously been made, or were supposed to have been made, for the reception of wounded men brought thither from a distance! The Medical Department had simply been incapable of calculating beforehand the requirements of a field hospital, and even of providing the bare necessities of the case. Arrangements had been made at Sistova, (we say nothing of their miserable character) for from 400 to 600 wounded, and, yet from 1,000 to 1,500 men were allowed to be penned together there, with only about ten doctors, badly provided with assistants to look after this mass of unfortunate creatures.

At Simnitsa things were even worse than at Sistova. Here there was a hospital (No 57) with "arrangements" for 630 sick and wounded, which, on September 5th, 1877, contained no less than 2,886 inmates, and was accordingly in a state of dirt, stench, and disorder that baffles all description. The doctors, attendants, and sisters of mercy, from their incessant overwork and exertions, found themselves in the same terrible condition as the wounded, who were so closely herded together that they literally pushed against and trod upon each other. Happy indeed was the man who possessed a bed, however filthy and uncomfortable. Many of the wounded lay uncovered in their blood-stained clothes upon the floor, and often lay there for twelve or fifteen hours together without the taste of food or water. At Frajeschty, early in September, a hospital intended for 630 men was packed with 3,000 sick and wounded. Dr. Iljinski, who

was employed here, reports that around the barracks about 800 wounded lay along the railway on straw caked and stiff with mud and exposed to the open air. These poor creatures remanded for four and twenty hours without seeing a doctor or receiving a morsel of bread.

And all this occurred at one of the central places which were said to have been arranged for the reception of the wounded. No wonder that the complaints heaped upon the Medical Department by the doctors, the voluntary nurses and the soldiers and officers who were wounded, were loud, severe and bitter, and that the report just alluded to declares the whole organization of this department to be "beneath all criticism." No wonder that the report of Professor Sklifassowski concludes as follows: "The selections of the places and buildings intended for hospitals, the composition of the staff, the arrangement of the hospitals and the organization of the service—all and everything was in incapable hands."

The means of transportation for the wounded were in keeping with the condition of the hospitals. The unfortunate victims to their bravery lay heaped one on another by dozens in miserable small carts without springs. The mere sight of these crazy vehicles betrayed that they had been hastily scraped together, without the least regard to their fitness or convenience. The Medical Department had evidently not given a thought to providing for the conveyance of the wounded, and had left them entirely to chance. Cases could be given of 300 or 400 wounded being dragged for days along the road under the escort of a single physician and a couple of army surgeons, to find, when they reached at length their destination, that no preparation whatever had been made for their reception, and that nothing was left to the leaders of this miserable caravan but to continue their journey. Sometimes no conveyance at all was to be had. After the third assault on Plevna 574 wounded men had to march on foot for five days to Simniza, without receiving on their way any regular food. And among these "lightly wounded" as they were called there were men with broken bones.

"One would have supposed," says an eye witness, "that this war, expected for so many years, had been a surprise, which had rendered preparations impossible. That preparations would certainly have been possible—that with some intelligence and care they might have been made with satisfactory results, is shown by the enormous difference that existed between the official medical organization and that of the Red Cross Society."

The hospital arrangements which were under the control of this society are a theme of grateful admiration to this day among all who were fortunate to come under their nursing. Officers and soldiers who were removed from the other hospitals to those of the Red Cross describe the change as one from hell to heaven. Wherever this sign appeared, there reigned, in spite of the same difficulties, order, cleanliness, and a system of treatment as humane as it was methodical.

THE TURKOMAN PRISONERS.

One more extract illustrative of the marvellous increase of the practice of humanity in war, in countries where, until the introduction of the Treaty of Geneva and the Red Cross societies the worst of barbarities had been the custom and the rule, will perhaps not be out of place. It will be remembered that Russia signed the Treaty in May, 1867, and no nation has surpassed her in the attention, protection and patronage she has given to her societies of the Red Cross; to this mainly may be attributed the noble action which so enriches her record and so justly elevates her in the scale of civilization and humanity in these later years. In the Pall Mall Gazette a few months since appeared the following facts relating to the Turkoman prisoners of the late Russian-Turko war:

"Under the double-headed eagle, as under the British flag, no slavery is permitted, and the hoisting of the Russian standard on the ruined ramparts of the Turkoman fortress was the signal for the emancipation of 700 wretched Persian slaves; half naked, starving, and covered with bruises, after being compelled to work all day they were being chained at night, hand and foot to stakes and guarded by dogs. No words could describe the rapture of these unfortunate men when the Russians told them they were free to return to the Province of Khorossan, from whence most of them had been carried off by the Turks. Within the fortress the Russians found about 4,000 Turkoman families, or about 18,000 individuals whose astonishment knew no bounds when, instead of being butchered or enslaved, they were treated with scrupulous kindness and confided to the care of the Russian Red Cross Society."—*Newspaper Article.*

THE RED CROSS IN THE RUSSO TURKISH WAR.

A report has been published by the Russian Red Cross Society, showing the part played by this Society during the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78. It appears that the Society established 13,120 beds, and that a total of no less than 21,973 were founded by voluntary agencies in conjunction with the Red Cross Society. The Society, moreover, gave succor to 116,296 patients, among whom were 1,238 officers. The deaths of patients under their care amounted to 2,863. The Society's staff consisted of 300 medical men, including sub-surgeons, and 1,211 attendants.—*Newspaper Article.*

*ENDORSEMENT BY PRESIDENT WOOLSEY
AND OTHERS.*

We append the approving words of Dr. Woolsey, Ex-President of Yale College, and leading authority on International Law in the United States; of Prof. Wayland, Dean of the Faculty of the Yale Law School, and President of the American Social Science Association; and of other gentlemen eminent as Lawyers and Doctors of Divinity, recommending to the President of the United States the adoption by the government of the United States of the principles of the International Convention of Geneva:

To the President of the United States:—The undersigned would respectfully recommend to your favorable consideration the adoption by the government of the United States of the provisions of the International Treaty of Geneva for the care of the sick and wounded in war.

THEODORE D. WOOLSEY,

H. B. HARRISON,

JOHN E. TODD,

EDWIN HARWOOD,

FRANCIS WAYLAND,

JOSEPH SHELDON.

New Haven, Connecticut, Oct. 20, 1881.

LETTER FROM GENERAL SHERIDAN.

HEADQUARTERS MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSOURI, }
CHICAGO, March 31, 1881. }

MISS CLARA BARTON, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MISS BARTON:— * * * I fully agree with you that an association for the amelioration of the sufferings of the sick and wounded in armies in time of war should have an official status in our country. In case of war in the future we should derive the greatest benefit had we an

organization officially charged with dispensing the charities of the humane, and I hope you will be able to lay this matter before the government in such a way as to insure some favorable action at an early day. *

Very Truly Yours,

P. H. SHERIDAN,

Lieutenant General U. S. Army.

*LETTER FROM M. EDOUARD SEVE, CONSUL-
GENERAL OF BELGIUM.*

[Translated from the French.]

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15th, 1881.

MISS CLARA BARTON, Washington, D. C.

MADemoisELLE:—I should be infinitely obliged to you if you would send me the statutes of the American Association of the Red Cross which you founded during my recent sojourn in Europe, as I wish to annex them to my annual report to the International Committee of Geneva. All the societies of the Red Cross take a deep interest in the results of your persevering and generous efforts in regard to this great humanitarian work, and it will afford them great happiness when they shall hear of the success of your powerful associations of Washington, and of the State of New York, and of their work for Michigan, etc., etc. I had the honor to give a statement in person to the illustrious General Garfield, so cruelly removed from the United States and the civilized world, concerning the extension of the Red Cross on the Continent of South America, where I exercised for a long time the functions of the Consul General Charge d' Affaires for Belgium. He received favorably the recital of my efforts crowned with success in the States of the Pacific during the last war, and he then assured me of his generous and well-meaning interest for the admirable institution of which you are one of the most efficient protectors.

I went to Geneva last June in order to communicate to the International Committee your generous efforts and the good dispositions of President Garfield. I send you, here enclosed, divers documents, and I beg you, Mademoiselle, to accept the homage of my profound respect.

EDOUARD SEVE DE BAR,

Representative of the International Committee of Geneva.

LETTER FROM THE REV. HENRY W. BELLOWS, D. D.

NEW YORK, Nov. 21, 1881.

MY DEAR MISS BARTON :—It has been a sore disappointment and mortification to those who inaugurated the plan of organized relief by private contributions for sick and wounded soldiers, in our late war, since so largely followed by other nations, that they should still find the United States the *only* great government that refuses to join in the Treaty framed by the International Convention of Geneva, for neutralizing battle fields, after the battle, and making the persons of surgeons and nurses flying to the relief of the wounded and dying, free from arrest.

This great international agreement for mitigating the horrors of war, finds its chief defect in the conspicuous refusal of the United States government to join in the Treaty! The importance of our national concurrence with other governments in this noble Treaty, has been urged upon every administration since the war, but has thus far met only the reply that our national policy did not allow us to enter into entangling alliances with other powers. I rejoice to hear from you, that our late President, and his chief official advisers were of a different opinion, and encouraged the hope that in the interests of mercy and humanity, it might be safe to agree by treaty with all the civilized world, that we would soften to non-combatants, the hateful conditions that made relief on battle fields a peril or a forbidden act. I trust you will press this matter upon our present administration with all the weight of your well-earned influence. Having myself somewhat ignominiously failed to get any encouragement for this measure from two administrations, I leave it in your more fortunate hands, hoping that the time is ripe for a less jealous policy than American self isolation in international movements for extending and universalizing mercy towards the victims of war.

Yours Truly,

H. W. BELLOWS.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
What the Red Cross Is.....	9
A Sketch of the History of the Red Cross.....	15
Origin and Progress.....	15
Organization and Methods of Work.....	21
Occupation of Relief Societies in Time of Peace.....	25
Services in Time of War.....	28
Action of Neutral Countries in Time of War.....	36
Letter from the International Committee of Geneva to the President of the United States.....	39
Letter from Secretary Blaine.....	41
Letter from Mons. G. Moynier.....	42
Constitution of the American Association of the Red Cross.....	44
Resolutions of the National Conference of Geneva, 1863.....	48
Convention of Geneva, Aug. 22, 1864 (Articles of Convention).....	49
Governments Adopting the Treaty.....	52
Address by Miss Clara Barton.....	55
APPENDIX.	
Report of the Red Cross Society of Dansville.....	81
Constitution.....	81
Red Cross at Work.....	84
Society of the Red Cross of Monroe County.....	85
Society of the Red Cross of Onondaga County.....	86
Action of the Dansville Post, G. A. R.....	87
Action of the National Encampment, G. A. R., Indianapolis, Ind.....	87
Concerning the Red Cross in Russia.....	88
The Turkoman Prisoners.....	91
The Red Cross in the Russo-Turkish War.....	92
Endorsement by President Woolsey and Others.....	92
Letter from General Sheridan.....	92
Letter from M. Edouard Seve, Consul General of Belgium.....	93
Letter from the Rev. Henry W. Bellows, D. D.....	94

THE RED CROSS

OF THE

GENEVA CONVENTION.

Copies of this work can be procured by addressing Secretary Red Cross Society, P. O. Box 23, Washington, D. C.; or Secretary Red Cross Society, P. O. Box 338, Dansville, Livingston Co., N. Y.

Price by mail, single copy..... 12cts

“ “ per dozen.....1.00

“ “ “ hundred.....6.00

